Resume 'all-out' war vs MILF, Estrada urges

STORY ON PAGE A2

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IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

MUHLACH & JIMENEZ

- Aga plays Joyce's bodyguard
- Focus on Matt Damon, Robin
- Filipino directors on the world scene

'Mad cow' kicks up demand for 'azucena'

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The forbidden delicacy *azucena* (stewed dog meat) and carabao meat are suddenly in demand following the mad cow disease scare in the country.

Sources from the local meat market said dog

MAD/ A16

IT'S 13-0 FOR GLORIA

Supreme Court cites Angara diary as basis for Erap resignation

BY CATHY YAMSUAN

VOTING 13-0, the Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the country's legitimate President and not her deposed predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

"Estrada has effectively resigned by his acts and statements," said the ruling written by Associate Justice Reynato Puno.

The justices also voted 9-4 on Estrada's loss of immunity from suit.

The twin decisions are to be officially released today, 10 days earlier than scheduled.

The ruling paves the way for the filing by the Office of the Ombudsman of plunder cases against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan.

But Estrada, who was toppled in a military-backed citizens' revolt on Jan. 20, has 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration with the high court.

In deciding the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration, the high court quoted liberally from the diary of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara in the last hours of the Estrada administration, which was published in the INQUIRER from Feb. 4 to 6, 2001.

The tribunal ruled that Estrada had effectively resigned even if he did not sign his resignation letter.

"As events approach Jan. 20, we can have an authoritative window on the state of mind of (Estrada). This window is provided in the final days of Joseph Ejercito Estrada," the Supreme Court said in its decision.

"The diary of Executive Secretary (Edgardo) Angara was serialized in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (on Feb. 4-6). The Angara diary reveals that in the morning of Jan. 19, petitioner's loyal advisers were worried about the swelling of the crowd at Edsa, hence, they decided to create an ad hoc committee to handle it," the high court said.

"Their worry would worsen. At 1:20 p.m., petitioner pulled Secretary Angara into his small office at the Presidential Residence and explained 'Ed, *seryoso na ito. Kumalas na si* Angelo (Reyes, the AFP chief of staff). An hour later or at 2:30 p.m., the petitioner decided to call for a snap presidential election and stressed he would not be a candidate.

"The proposal for a snap election for President in May where he would not be a candidate is *indicium*

IT'S 13-0/ A16

UNQUESTIONABLY as of today the 14th president of the Republic of the Philippines. VAL HANDUMON

Ex-BIR chief gets 15 years for graft

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday sentenced former Internal Revenue Commissioner Bienvenido Tan to a maximum of 15 years in prison for allowing San Miguel Corp. to pay only P10 million instead of its P302.9-million tax deficiency in 1986.

The anti-graft court could have imposed a stiffer penalty on Tan. But because he is already 78 years old, which is considered a mitigating circumstance, the court imposed the Indeterminate Sentence Law.

Thus, Sandiganbayan meted out Tan a minimum sentence of six years and one month and a maximum of 15 years.

The Fourth Division of the anti-graft court found Tan, the head of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) during the Aquino administration, liable for graft after he entered into a compromise agreement with San Miguel.

"As the court finds the compromise agreement to have been entered into illegally, the BIR is hereby ordered to collect from San Miguel Corp. the amount of P292,951,048.93 representing its tax liabilities covering the period from Jan. 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986."

The order was contained in a 26-page decision of Associate Jus-

EX-BIR/ A4

Erap falls again; PPC bets jeered

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL, CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO AND FROILAN GALLARDO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN de Oro—Deposed President Joseph Estrada has had one too many falls.

While campaigning for the Puwersa ng Masa candidates here yesterday, he fell through a four-foot high wooden stage when one of its panels suddenly gave way.

Estrada, according to his aides, slightly injured his left foot.

The incident, which occurred in front of the Misamis Oriental provincial capitol building, stunned and silenced the crowd. But in a few minutes, Estrada stood up and raised both arms to the delight of his supporters.

Estrada's fall was a mere sideshow for residents who had anticipated a showdown between Estrada's candidates and that of President Macapagal-Arroyo's People's Power Coalition.

It was the first time that the PPC and the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates found themselves in the same city since they started campaigning around the country for the

ERAP/ A16

Macapagal, Lakandula's descendant?

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is not making an empty boast when she claims to be deeply rooted in Mindanao.

She may even have some Moro blood in her veins as a descendant of Tondo ruler Rajah Lakandula, according to Jaime C. Laya, chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Laya yesterday turned over to the President

MACAPAGAL/ A16

Elections law gives bets equal access

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

MOVIES portraying the life of a candidate or starring an actor or media personality who is his/herself a candidate are not allowed to be shown on television and in movie houses during the campaign period.

This and other no-nos will be enforced by the Commission on Elections, which approved Thursday night the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) on Republic Act 9006, or the Fair Elections Act.

The law gives candidates equal access to media advertisement time and space, sets limits on election expenses and imposes strict guide-

ELECTIONS/ A16

Assault rifles for Marines turn up in hands of gunrunners

BY CARLITO PABLO AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

WHERE are the 72 assault rifles that disappeared after having been purchased by the Marine Corps?

A police officer who escorted the HK-MP5 9mm rifles worth P7.2 million has disclosed that these were not actually delivered to the corps but were unloaded at the office of a firearms dealer that supplied them.

Five of the missing rifles turned up in the hands of Taiwanese gunrunners who were arrested by police in Subic in October last year.

SPO4 Richard Zules, former chief ballistician of the Philippine National Police's Firearms and Explosives Division (PNP-FED), said in a sworn statement that the rifles were licensed in the name of the Marine Corps and were supplied by Trimark Ventures Corp., exclusive distributor of HK-MP5s in the country.

The case of the firearms was one of the questionable transactions in the Marine Corps raised by Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong.

The admiral, who stepped down Thursday as Navy chief, was forced out of his post as a result of his public call for reforms in the corps'

ASSAULT/ A4

VIEW FROM THE STREETS

Different folks, different strokes

BY TEDDY A. CASIÑO

Editor's note: The author is the secretary general of the left-wing alliance Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

(First of three parts)

WHEN Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. banged the gavel that fateful night of Jan. 16 and announced, "the no votes have it," the first question that came to my mind was: "Is this it?"

In the weeks prior to that crucial moment, we in Bayan had been wracking our brains thinking of the trigger that would finally let loose millions into the nation's streets to oust Joseph Estrada.

We were certain that the struggle would begin and end in the parliament of the streets and not in the Senate impeachment court that was rapidly debasing itself as a political circus.

The gun was cocked, and all we lacked was the finger to make it go off.

By that time, the numerous bombshells dropped in Estrada's impeachment trial had, in our view, already galvanized the needed broad popular support for his forced resignation or for an unarmed uprising.

Estrada had been on the defensive since October, when Ilocos Gov. Chavit Singson set "Juetengate" in motion with his charges that Estrada had received gambling bribes and tax kickbacks.

During those heady early days of Juetengate, several anti-Estrada formations were, to my mind, the major players in the efforts to persuade Estrada to resign, be impeached or be forcibly ousted from power.

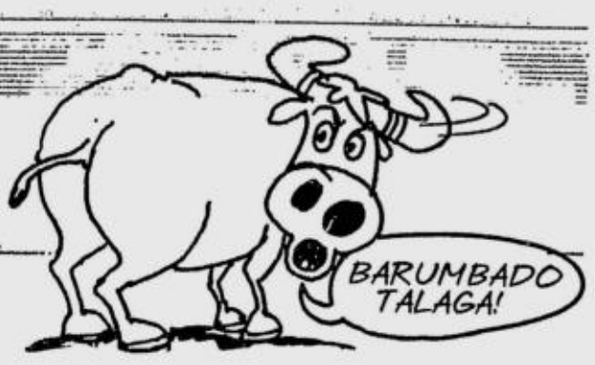
The groups were Bayan, the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM), the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa), the United Opposition (particularly Lakas-NUCD), the Kangkong Brigade and the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil II).

There were other organizations like the People's Consultative Assembly,

DIFFERENT/ A15

DOES Estrada know that even as he speaks before a jampacked rally in Cagayan de Oro City claiming still to be No. 1 that the Supreme Court has ruled that he's considered "effectively resigned?" JOAN BONDOC

Second FRONT PAGE



'BECAUSE PEACE TALKS TAKE TOO LONG'

Resume 'all-out' war, Estrada urges

BY BOBBY TIMONERA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ILIGAN CITY—Ousted President Joseph Estrada last night said military operations should be resumed against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) because peace talks take too long and have not achieved the results he achieved in his "all-out war" against the group last year.

Estrada told a press conference here that "*Paulit ulit lang yang* peace talks, *wala namang nangyayari* (Those peace talks just go on and on, but nothing happens)."

Estrada was on a campaign swing through Mindanao for the Puwersa ng Masa coalition whcih counts among its senatorial candidates former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

It was during his incumbency last year that Estrada declared an all-out war against the MILF and its more radical breakway faction, the Abu Sayyaf.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 20 declared a suspension of offensive military operations (Somo) against the MILF as part of efforts to get them back to the peace table.

Ms Macapagal on Feb. 15 named the members of the all-Mindanaoan and all-civilian panel that will negotiate peace with the MILF on behalf of the government. The panel is led by lawyer Jesus Dureza, a former adviser on Mindanao to another administration.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, dismissed Estrada's proposal. "*Tapos na siya.* (He's finished.) The MILF should not take Estrada seriously," he said.

Kabalu said peace talks are necessary. "Let us give the government a chance to back what it is saying, that it will talk peace with the MILF," he said.

Contradictory

Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr., president of Notre Dame University and a member of the independent mission that monitored the government–MILF ceasefire last year, said, "Erap is just contradicting himself. As a matter of fact, he asked (Indonesian President) Wahid for help in initiating the peace process with the MILF. Either he is hallucinating or he doesn't know what's going on.

"'When he was President, he said military operations were over. His new policy was to promote peace, development and reconstruction in Mindanao. Between the peace process and the policy of war, peace is the right policy." Mercado said.

The priest added that Estrada was "totally ignorant of what was happening in Mindanao when he was President, how much more now that he is no longer the Chief Executive?"

In Davao City, Dureza said Estrada's statement was not worth commenting on.

"I will not even dignify his comment with an answer," Dureza said.

"*Utak pulbura talaga yang si* Erap. *Gusto pang humirit. Tumahimik na lang siya. Passe' na siya.* He is a former president and he is a non-entity," said Prof. Moner Bajunaid, former member of the MILF Technical Working Group on Peace Negotiations who is now a senatorial candidate.

"*Si* Estrada *paulit-ulit sinasabi ang giyera. Tayo paulit-ulit ayaw ng giyera. Kailangan tumahimik na siya dahil* the whole Filipino nation is running after him. *Gigiyerahin siya ng buong bansa.* The whole Filipino nation will be running after his hidden wealth. There is no way for the people to allow him to return to power," Bajunaid said.

Supports Erap

In Cagayan de Oro City, Julito Jamisola, a street vendor, supported Estrada's call, however, saying it was right to resume military operations against the rebel groups since these groups only caused chaos in the country.

Carl Cesar Rebuta of the paralegal staff of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center said he was not sold on Estrada's idea.

Rebuta said the resumption of military operations would not solve the problem. Peace talks, he said, are a better option.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, Jose Miguel Sta. Maria, an NGO worker, said, "There should be no ceasefire in our fight against (Estrada) until he is hanged because he plundered our nation's coffers, killed so many innocent civilians, especially Muslims and brought so much havoc to the Filipino people.

"I think I would agree with Estrada's 'no ceasefire' stance only if he himself is sent by the government to the battlefield to be the soldiers' shield," he added.

Jamil Pahamutang, a Muslim college student, said "He (Estrada) is not the one who is affected by the war. He lives in his mansions. He loves war as he loves sex, money, mansions, gambling. Thank God we finished him or he would have finished the Filipino race." *With Nico Alconaba, Jowel Canuday, Edwin Fernandez, Ayan Mellejor and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MILF insists on talks abroad, 'referee'

COTABATO CITY—A mediator and a foreign venue.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) reiterated yesterday that for it to agree to return to the peace table, the talks would have to be in another country and have a "referee."

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said the group wants the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) or the United Nations to mediate the peace talks because "we need a third man in the ring and there should be no homecourt advantage."

The 56-nation OIC brokered the peace pact between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) earlier.

"We suffered big blows during the three-year peace process. We want a referee and a mediator for the process to succeed," said Jaafar, former MILF peace panel vice chair.

The MILF disbanded its peace panel in August of last year, claiming the atmosphere was no longer conducive for peace talks after the military, largely on orders of deposed President Joseph Estrada, began large scale offensives against the separatist group and a breakaway faction, the Abu Sayyaf.

Mediator

"*Nadala na kami, naisahan na kami* (We now know better, we'd been had), now we want to ensure we will not suffer the same fate again," he said.

"The OIC will be the mediator or *tagapamagitan*," he said.

Jaafar mentioned Indonesia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia as possible venues for the peace talks.

Jaafar said the talks under the Estrada administration bogged down because "there was no mediator and there was distrust."

Ermita's stand

Reacting to Jaafar's two conditions, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita urged the MILF yesterday to form its peace panel and refrain from issuing talking points to the media.

Ermita said the issues presented by Jaafar should be presented to the panels so they could be discussed officially.

President Macapagal-Arroyo named the all-civilian, all-Mindanaoan government peace panel two weeks ago, headed by lawyer Jesus Dureza.

Right track

Jaafar said they "thought we were on the right track when then President Estrada pursued the peace process, only to realize he was solving the problem through the military." Estrada launched an "all-out war" against the MILF in March last year, leading to the capture of about 40 MILF camps, including its main base Camp Abubakar.

The wa also led to the death of hundreds of combatants and displaced nearly a million residents. At least 300 evacuees, mostly children, have died in evacuation centers. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase with a report from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Guingona will miss travels with Gloria

VICE PRESIDENT and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. will not get to travel abroad—with the President on her official trips, that is.

President Macapagal-Arroyo informed the Department of Foreign Affairs of her decision to leave Guingona behind during a courtesy call at Malacañang by Asean ambassadors last week.

The President reportedly wants Guingona to remain as officer-in-charge of the country whenever she is away, in keeping with his position as Vice President.

"The Singaporean ambassador asked her if the Vice President would accompany her on her official trips and she said no," said Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr.

Ms Macapagal said that instead of Guingona, she would take along the most senior foreign undersecretary on her trips.

Guingona had been expected to be by the President's side on foreign trips since he is concurrently the foreign affairs secretary.

Shortly after assuming office, Ms Macapagal said she would not go on a foreign trip for "the next six months" to focus on rebuilding the economy.

She is, however, expected to attend the Asean heads of state summit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in November. *Dona Pazzibugan*

Why Casiño turned down gov't jobs

NAGA CITY—Militant group leader Teddy Casiño has turned down two jobs in government because he cannot "stomach" working in it and it appeared he was only being given a token reward for his role in the People Power II uprising that unseated ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said he was offered directorial positions in the Technological Livelihood and Resource Center and a government-owned microfinancing agency.

Education Secretary Raul Roco, he said, also asked him to help out at the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

He said he refused because he felt he was not qualified for the positions and they were only concessions to him after key positions had been filled.

"I am not inclined to accept positions in the administration because it would be difficult to be bound to a government whose direction is questionable," he said.

He said the bureaucracy has become incurably rotten and one could not do anything to change the system substantially.

"I belong to the parliament of the streets because this is where I can do something. If you are an upright principled person you cannot take the decadence, intrigues and corruption in government," he said. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Parents threaten march against tuition increases

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

FOR A change, it is the parents who are threatening to march in protest against impending increases in tuition even as youth groups have deplored the government's inability to protect the educational interest of the country's students.

Members of the Partido ng Manggagawa, who are also parents, said yesterday they would organize mass actions to show their "disapproval" of the Commission on Higher Education which they said has been ineffectual in regulating the cost of education.

"Tuition increases have been an annual problem of our children, but it is we, the parents, who bear the burden as we try to afford the education (that) universities offer," said PM president and party-list Rep. Renato Magtubo.

Magtubo said education, like petroleum products, has become just another commodity because the government has allowed a deregulated education sector.

"Prices of petroleum products rise, and the government says it is because of the deregulation of the oil industry. Tuitions increase and CHEd says it is because it does not have enough power to regulate these hikes," he said.

"Now who can afford all these commodities with the minimum wage stuck at P250 a day?" he asked.

Tuition in private schools were deregulated in 1998 as provided in BP 232, which states that the private schools would "determine its rate of tuition and other fees or charges" and that the application of the fee hikes would only be subject to the rules of the CHEd.

The CHEd requires all tertiary schools to first submit a notice informing the agency of their plan to raise fees, but not before conducting consultations with the students, faculty and other non-uniformed school personnel.

Schools are also required to submit a certificate to show that the revenues from the additional fees would be spent according to the legal mandate: 70 percent for teachers' pay, and 20 percent for the school, and 10 percent as return on investment.

"The reason most schools raise their tuition is because they also want to increase the salaries of their teachers," said CHEd chair Ester Garcia.

She said another reason was that the schools wanted to be information technology-savvy, for which they would need to improve equipment and facilities.

Youth groups have refused to accept the CHEd's explanations, and called the agency "inutile" for failing to protect the interest of the students.

Belinda Haban, chair of the Sanlakas-Youth, lamented that students and their parents are forced to face the "menace" of tuition increases every year.

"What adds insult to injury is the glaring fact that despite annual tuition increases, the quality (of tertiary education) continues to slide," Haban said.

The Youth Movement for Justice and Meaningful Change (YMJC) blamed the schools, along with CHEd, for the additional revenues "rarely translating into improvement of facilities and increases in the salaries of teachers."

Mark Jimenez 'sings'; DOJ files 7th plunder case vs Erap

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

SEVEN is definitely not Joseph Estrada's lucky number as the Department of Justice filed last night a seventh plunder case against the deposed president.

The DOJ charged Estrada with amassing P346 million in unexplained wealth based on an affidavit signed by his erstwhile friend and crony, Mark Jimenez.

In the sworn statement, Jimenez said he issued a total of 10 checks to Estrada from Dec. 25, 1998 to Aug. 7, 2000 drawn against three different banks.

"As far as I can recall, I would issue these checks to Estrada for various considerations—as extortion money, after he made several threats to me; borrowed money which he never repaid to me, and advances on commissions, specifically for the Equitable-PCIBank merger for P126 million," Jimenez said.

Jimenez said he "personally handdelivered each check" to Estrada on or about the dates on the checks. All checks were payable to cash, he added.

The DOJ transmitted Jimenez's affidavit to the Office of the Ombudsman, together with supporting documents such as photocopies of the original checks and other papers specifying details about the checks.

The DOJ, in its endorsement letter, asked the Ombudsman to "investigate the criminal charges with dispatch."

Jimenez said he issued seven checks from his three accounts at the Bank of Commerce.

These included one for P20 million on Dec. 25, 1998; another for P23 million on Jan. 9, 1999; P27 million on Feb. 14, 1999; P5 million on Feb. 16, 1999; two checks for P20 million each on March 5, 1999, and the last check for P20 million on May 24, 1999.

The first two checks were deposited in Estrada's account at the San Juan branch of Westmont Bank, Jimenez said.

The third and fourth checks, he said, were deposited in Estrada's account at the Bank of Commerce branch in Greenhills, San Juan.

The fifth was deposited at the Banco Filipino branch in San Juan, the sixth at the Keppel Monte branch also in San Juan, and the seventh at the Metrobank Ortigas Center branch which Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson mentioned more than once in his testimony at Estrada's impeachment trial.

On May 30, 1999, Jimenez said he issued an eighth check for P126 million against his Equitable-PCIBank account at the J. Luna St., Binondo branch.

This, he said, was Estrada's advance commission for the Equitable-PCIBank merger which Jimenez brokered.

On Aug. 15, 1999, Jimenez issued another check from a separate account in Equitable-PCIBank for P10 million also from the J. Luna, Binondo branch.

Jimenez' affidavit showed that this check, the ninth he issued to Estrada, was deposited to account number 0160-62501-5 of Equitable-PCIBank.

He said this was the controversial Jose Velarde account unearthed by the House prosecutors during the impeachment trial.

The last check Jimenez issued to Estrada was dated Aug. 7, 2000 for P75 million. It was drawn from his account at Allied Bank's head office.

Ouster sought of PNP brass openly supporting Lacson

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ AND TJ BURGONIO

MILITANTS yesterday demanded the "immediate and unconditional" dismissal of police generals accused of campaigning for senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson, the former chief of the Philippine National Police.

Describing the PNP generals as "full-time members of the Estrada-Lacson clique," the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the Macapagal administration should not allow the police officials to remain in office a day longer.

It said the police officials had blatantly disregarded the neutrality they had professed when the Armed Forces and the National Police shifted their support from deposed President Joseph Estrada to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the People Power II revolt in January.

'Dangerous signs'

"It's unpardonable to see the same ugly faces flaunting their allegiance and hailing their chief to high heavens but at the same time campaigning for Lacson. This is just totally revolting," said Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz said the fact that Lacson's pursuit of a Senate seat and the fact that his (and Estrada's) men are still holding sensitive positions in the PNP are "unusual and dangerous signs."

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople, vice president for Luzon of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino to which Lacson belongs, said the police generals had committed an illegal act and urged the Commission on Elections to look into the matter.

"If they are campaigning for General Lacson or anybody else, that is not a legal act," Ople said.

Ople said members of the bureaucracy and uniformed services are forbidden from conducting highly partisan activities, including campaigning for candidates in elections, under Republic Act 6713 (the Code of Ethics) and the Civil Service Law.

Airport incident

Close relations with Lacson could prove the undoing of another government official, Danilo Almeda, head supervisor of the Bureau of Immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Almeda is accused of violating airport security procedures when he facilitated the departure of Lacson for Hong Kong last Thursday.

According to an airport official, Almeda not only issued an invalid access pass to Lacson, he also checked Lacson in by proxy with Cathay Pacific Airlines and escorted the ex-police chief to the boarding gate without Lacson going through proper immigration procedures.

"People Power II deposed Estrada and forced his right-hand man in the PNP (Lacson) to resign, only to find out that the remnants are still there and playing partisan politics for the deposed president and his able lieutenant," Pamalakaya's Sambajon said.

Pamalakaya urged President Macapagal and PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro Muñoz to drop the "policy of accommodation."

Pursue probes

The group also called on the President to zealously pursue the investigation of "Estrada, Lacson and their cohorts" for "gross violations of human rights" and other criminal acts.

Among those whose dismissal is being sought are Chief Supt. Jose Ayap of the Ilocos PNP Regional Office; Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusillero, head of the PNP Central Visayas regional office; Chief Supt. Dominador Domingo, head of the PNP Central Mindanao regional office, and Senior Supt. Gregorio Dolina, head of PNP Southern Mindanao regional office.

It also demanded the sacking of Traffic Management Group director Renato Paredes; Chief Superintendents Romeo Acop and Reynaldo Acop, Director Victor Batac, Senior Superintendents Caesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino and Diosdado Veleroso.

Lacson's campaign headquarters released a statement yesterday quoting the absent candidate as saying that the police officials seen providing him with security and clearing traffic for him had been "provided" by local officials who had invited him. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Metro Manila, and Roger Paller, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Wong gets GMA job offer

BY CARLITO PABLO AND ARMAND NOCUM

IT looks like Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong is not going to sail quietly into the sunset.

Wong had a private lunch yesterday with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

Emerging from the hour-long meeting, Wong admitted that he had been offered a government post.

"I cannot tell you as of now. You have to hear it from the President," he said in reply to questions as to whether he was offered the defense portfolio or an ambassadorial post.

"She was very gracious and concerned," Wong said. Asked if he was willing to serve in another position in the government, he said: "If the President asks, how can I refuse?"

But he made it clear that he did not ask the President "for anything."

Starting yesterday, Wong assumed a "floating status." He is due to retire in December.

Meanwhile, former Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa, said the President could still consider Wong a candidate for the post of Armed Forces chief of staff that Gen. Angelo Reyes is scheduled to vacate on March 17.

"Wong is a morally upright officer and he will make an excellent chief of staff," said Maligalig, his "mistah" in Class 1969 of the Philippine Military Academy.

According to Maligalig, Wong personifies the message that was delivered during the second people power uprising that toppled Joseph Estrada from the presidency.

"He has a message of reform. He has the qualities which were among those sought at Edsa II—trustworthiness, new morality in governance, transparency," Maligalig said.

Maligalig pointed out that Wong stepped down as Navy chief without any case against him.

Assault rifles turn up in gunrunners' hands

(From page A1)

procurement system.

Wong also raised the alleged irregular P3.8-million purchase of Kevlar helmets during the term of Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa as Marine commandant.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto has ordered Espinosa and his fellow respondents to answer within 10 days charges of graft and fraud lodged against them on Tuesday by the AFP inspector general and judge advocate general.

Yesterday, Desierto placed Espinosa and several others under preliminary investigation.

Desierto also ordered the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the military to expand its fact-finding investigations to cover not only the missing assault rifles but also the P64.9 million in funds allegedly used to fund "ghost" projects of the Marine Corps.

Also yesterday, Ombudsman investigators questioned Wong on the case of the helmets.

Wong submitted a two-page affidavit on the procurement of helmets. It was addressed to the Armed Forces chief of staff.

Deposit, withdraw

Trimark deposited the firearms in the PNP-FED's storage vault after the Marines sought authorization from the PNP for the purchase of the weapons.

On June 21, 2000, the guns were withdrawn from the vault and Zules was ordered to escort these to the Marine armory in Fort Bonifacio.

According to Zules' sworn statement, a representative of Trimark identified as Michael Boregas and one Gerardo Vejarde were present when the withdrawal was made.

Zules said he did not see anyone in Marine uniform at the time.

It was Boregas who signed the receipt papers for the release of the guns from Camp Crame.

But while the transport permit issued by the PNP-FED stated that the guns should be brought to the Marine armory, the weapons were unloaded at the Trimark office in Makati.

"According to Boregas and Vejarde, the Marines will just pick up the guns (from the Trimark office)," Zules said.

He said he later learned that Marine Col. Cesar de la Peña, the officer who handled the purchase, subsequently wrote the PNP-FED to cancel the licenses as the contract had been shelved because of "financial constraints."

In a separate sworn statement, De la Peña said it was Trimark president Ferdinand Trinidad who took care of the preparations for the purchase of the assault rifles.

He said Trinidad also "volunteered to be the one to work for the funding (of the HK-MP5s)."

De la Peña claimed that the Marines did not receive further word from Trinidad about the firearms. Thus, he said, on June 28, 2000, he wrote the PNP to cancel the processing of the licenses.

"I requested (the) FED, PNP (to) conduct an inventory since there were no deliveries received by the Marines," De la Peña said.

He said that he "heard from the grapevine that there were some firearms that were brought out of FED-PNP but there were no deliveries made to the Philippine Marines."

In a previously published newspaper report, Trimark's Trinidad claimed that the guns were not in his office and that these had been delivered to the Marines.

Wong had also raised the alleged misuse of P64.9 million for the relocation of the Marine base from Fort Bonifacio to Ternate, Cavite.

Retired Maj. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz is implicated in this case because he was Marine commandant at the time.

Yesterday, Ruiz said that the funds had been properly accounted for and that Navy investigators had earlier cleared him.

"But whatever it is, I'm willing to be investigated again," he said.

10 days

The Ombudsman identified the other respondents in the graft case lodged Tuesday as Colonels Inocencio Artajos, Sergio Eria and Nathalio Toreno; Majors Luciardo Obena and Godofredo Tabila; Maj. Jaime Napole and his wife Jenny; Captains Edmund Yurong and Arnold Blanco; Commander Eduardo Sobrejuanite; Supply Accountable Officer Illuminada Flores; and accountant Danilo Moro.

Even the suppliers have been named respondents—Priscilla Sumusot, Evelyn de Leon, Anna Marie Dulguime, Reynald and Magdalena Francisco and Mia Legacion.

Desierto said the evidence submitted by the AFP on the purchase of Kevlar helmets in December 1998 was already complete to warrant a formal probe. "Regarding the HK-MP5 9mm assault rifles, the Ombudsman is still conducting a fact-finding investigation on the matter," he said.

On Tuesday, Desierto ordered a fact-finding investigation into the questionable financial practices of the Marine Corps.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes had earlier referred to the Ombudsman the findings of a military probe that indicated irregular transactions in the Navy.

Desierto said the military documents provided by Reyes showed that seven ranking military officers and a civilian employee were behind the supposed irregular transactions.

Senate inquiry

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople yesterday urged the Senate blue ribbon and national defense committees to look into the alleged irregularities.

"It is perfectly within the powers of the Senate to do that, although there must be a Senate resolution first," he said.

Ople said the two committees were empowered under Senate Resolution No. 6 to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation even when Congress is in recess.

But he suggested that it would be good for Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the national defense committee, to inhibit himself from an inquiry.

Biazon was dragged into the controversy when Wong, in his speech to the Marines last month, revealed that the senator had inserted a P10-million budget to purchase night-vision goggles supplied by dealers known to him.

The senator has since denied involvement in any irregularity.

Ople said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who is vice chair of both committees, could join the inquiry even if he is a senatorial candidate of the opposition.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. still chairs the blue ribbon committee. ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

BIENVENIDO TAN: At 78, no stiffer penalty under the Indiscriminate Suspended Law. MIKE ALQUINTO

Ex-BIR chief . . .

(From page A1)

tices Rodolfo G. Palattao, Narciso S. Nario and Nicodemo T. Ferrer.

But San Miguel said it entered into the compromise agreement with the BIR "in good faith."

"The company was being assessed some P302 million which was without factual and legal basis. It was a case of a 'tax on a tax payment.' Thus, we believe the compromise agreement was appropriate," the company said in a statement.

The Sandiganbayan also disqualified Tan from holding any public office, saying "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Responsibility is the symbolic twin of power."

It was the Office of the Ombudsman that initiated criminal proceedings against Tan in 1993 after it established that there was a prima facie evidence to indict him for violation of Section 3 (e) of Republic Act 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft Law.

The Ombudsman charged four others. They were former head of the BIR prosecution division Juanito P. Urbi, Assistant BIR Commissioner Jaime Maza, San Miguel senior vice president and comptroller Nazario L. Avendaño and San Miguel assistant vice president Jaime de la Cruz.

But the Sandiganbayan cleared them on Nov. 27, 1995 based on a recommendation from the Ombudsman on Jan. 31, 1994.

San Miguel's original tax deficiency was P342,616,217.88—P33.8 million in specific tax and P308.7 million in ad valorem tax.

Tan reduced the amount to P302.9 million.

In a letter dated Aug. 31, 1988, Avendaño, San Miguel comptroller, offered P10 million for the settlement of the tax liabilities.

Urbi and Maza concurred with the recommendation for a P10-million compromise settlement, which Tan subsequently approved.

Associate Justice Palattao, who penned the Sandiganbayan decision, said the compromise agreement was irregular.

"For unexplained reasons," Tan on Oct. 27, 1987 referred San Miguel's tax deficiencies to Maza although at that time San Miguel was not protesting the reduced assessment of the BIR, according to Palattao.

The associate justice said Tan's decision to refer the matter to Maza was uncalled for because the tax assessment was final.

He said the compromise agreement between the BIR and San Miguel "resulted in undue injury to the government and must therefore be condemned."

In its statement, San Miguel said it was not a defendant in the case.

"Our lawyers will study the company's options, including that of filing a motion for reconsideration," it said.

McDonald's global commitment

Creating a culture of food safety

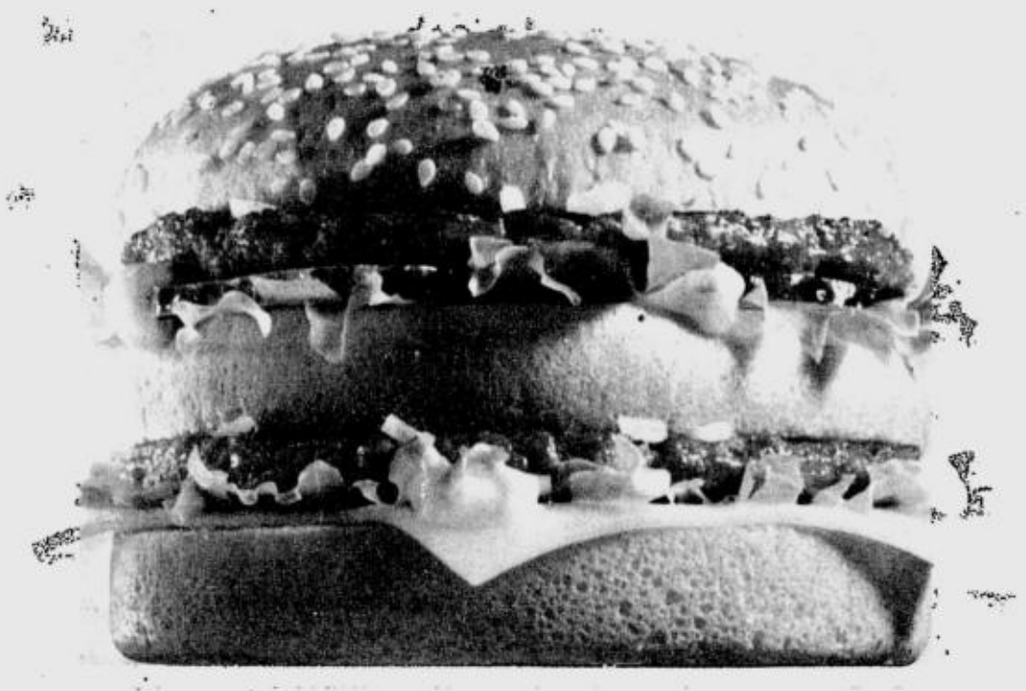
In 1981 when it opened its first restaurant in the Philippines, McDonald's promised an "exceptional, fun dining experience" for everyone who entered its doors. It is a promise that remains unbroken as McDonald's celebrates 20 years of making Filipinos happy.

True to its promise, McDonald's today continues to deliver the kind of quality food and prompt service that have made it the world's number one in the quick service restaurant (QSR) industry. And McDonald's is committed to honor this promise come what may.

One reason McDonald's is a popular choice anywhere in the world is its uncompromising attitude towards food safety.

The McDonald's manual that serves as food bible in the McDonald's family states in its preface that food safety is non-negotiable and serving safe food is not an option. Rather, it's their obligation as restaurant and foodservice professionals.

This belief is upheld globally by McDonald's and is likely shared by most Filipinos, particularly discerning homemakers who want nothing less than safe food on their family's plates.



***100% SAFE, 100% DELICIOUS**: Made from 100% pure beef sourced only from Australia and New Zealand, the Big Mac and other McDonald's hamburgers are certified safe.*

Safety from farm to counter

Many customers go for McDonald's, perhaps, because of its track record in food safety and quality that is made possible by the standardized procedures and measures that cover every phase in its food preparation - from the moment raw material is sourced till the time food is served in the restaurant.

From farm to counter, as McDonald's succinctly puts it, food safety is a beacon light that enables the global food giant to deliver on its promise to provide a dining experience its customers look forward to every time.

This same persistent and unwavering commitment to food safety and quality allows McDonald's to move forward and resolutely address any issue related to it.

In the face of the current food scare, for instance, McDonald's has every reason to be secure and confident because of the various mechanisms in place that make sure the food it serves is safe.

"McDonald's gives highest priority to the safety of its customers because this is something that we cannot compromise," says McDonald's Philippines managing director Joseph Lau. "We owe it to our customers as much as we owe it to ourselves."

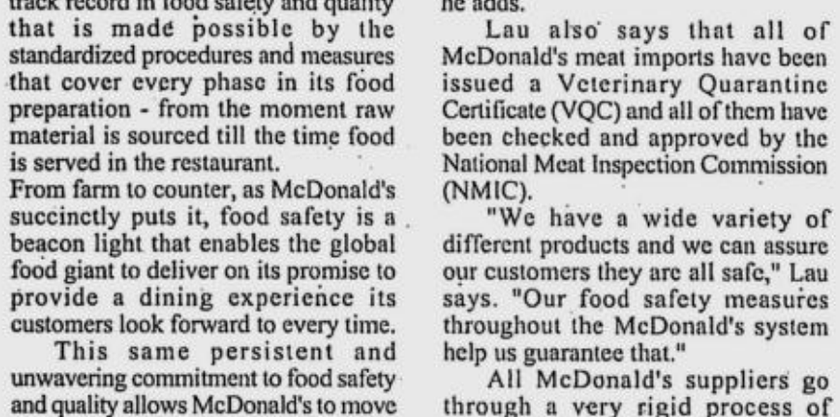
He points out that McDonald's uses 100% pure, natural beef and these are from the flank and forequarter of healthy cattle. Neither does McDonald's use mechanically deboned meats nor risk materials such as brain, eyes, tonsils, spinal chord and spleen, he adds.

Lau also says that all of McDonald's meat imports have been issued a Veterinary Quarantine Certificate (VQC) and all of them have been checked and approved by the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC).

"We have a wide variety of different products and we can assure our customers they are all safe," Lau says. "Our food safety measures throughout the McDonald's system help us guarantee that."

All McDonald's suppliers go through a very rigid process of accreditation where each has to comply with McDonald's Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) requirements.

To illustrate further, McDonald's sources its beef - as a matter of policy - from suppliers chosen based on stringent criteria. In the case of the Philippines, the company derives its beef solely from accredited suppliers in Australia and New Zealand.



***FAMILY'S DELIGHT**: Young family enjoys their McDonald's meal, fully aware that it is safe as it is delightful.*

The Office International des Epizooties (a globally recognized food safety organization) has confirmed that Australia and New Zealand are free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) - widely known as Mad Cow disease.

In addition, veterinary counselor Philip Corrigan of the Australian embassy based in Washington DC and animal biosecurity director Barry O'Neil of New Zealand's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have asserted that both countries are, indeed, BSE-free.

***FOOD SAFETY ALWAYS**: Throughout food preparation, safety checks are part of the standard procedures that are mandatory in the McDonald's system.*

Hazard-free all throughout

Anyone who has anything to do with McDonald's food handling is trained to understand and practice the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) scheme - a system designed for space-bound astronauts that identifies and controls hazards in the entire food flow to ensure absolute food safety.

HACCP involves a tight system of controls that covers the entire process from raw material sourcing to product preparation, storage, transportation, distribution and cooking at the restaurants. This means suppliers must have their HACCP plan in place before they can be accredited.

Under HACCP principles, all meat ingredients undergo thorough laboratory tests to rule out any "physical, chemical or biological" hazard, not only the more commonly known viruses like Mad Cow and e. coli.

At the restaurants, all McDonald's crewmembers strictly observe food safety measures that include the "30-minute timeout" where each one is required to sanitize their hands with instant sanitizers. Hand washing is a must every hour and whenever necessary.

Everyday, too, each McDonald's restaurant manager goes through the daily food safety checklist as part of McDonald's standard procedures that assure customers that what they eat and drink are safe.

With all these food safety and quality procedures deeply entrenched in its system, McDonald's definitely assure its customers that safe and quality food is served at McDonald's.

Making customers smile

This year, as McDonald's celebrates its 20th anniversary in the Philippines, there are several causes for rejoicing. Last January, the company introduced the new crispier, tastier and juicier McDonald's Chicken McCrispy as a way of kicking off the celebration.

"Twenty years of serving safe and quality food to our customers is the best testimony to McDonald's commitment to deliver only the best to Filipino families," says McDonald's Philippines chairman and president George Yang.

"Through all these years, we have set industry standards for Quality Food, Outstanding Customer Service, Cleanliness and Value for Money, and that is really worth celebrating," he adds.

Indeed, there is so much in McDonald's restaurants that customers find both pleasurable and gratifying. With the culture of food safety permeating its entire system including its more than 230 restaurants all over the Philippines, McDonald's has every reason to celebrate.

It's probably the same reason why George Yang and his grandchildren, like many Filipinos, keep coming back to McDonald's. That's because safe food is both a source of nourishment and joy. Truly, it's non-negotiable.

ADVT.

Country posts first-ever trade surplus with China of $210M

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINES for the first time has posted a trade surplus with China amounting to at least $210 million, the foreign affairs department said yesterday.

Bilateral trade has consistently been in Beijing's favor since commercial relations were revived in 1976 after they were cut off in the aftermath of China's communist revolution in 1949.

Citing trade statistics from China's Customs General Administration, the foreign affairs department said China imported some $1.68-billion worth of goods while it exported $1.46 billion to the Philippines last year.

Record high

Also last year, trade volume between the two countries reached a record high of $3.14 billion, which is 37 percent higher than last year.

"The country's trade surplus with China underscores the significance of economic exchange in bilateral relations and is a positive indicator for future opportunities for the Philippines in terms of its relations with China," the DFA said in a statement.

Top exports to China last year were electrical machinery, machinery and mechanical appliances, copper, fresh fruits, fuel oils, optical and photographic instruments, plastic and plastic products and paper, coconut oil and chemicals.

The DFA noted that Philippine-China trade grew dramatically in the past few years.

From six percent in 1995, the annual growth rate of the country's trade with China shot up to 92 percent last year. Philippine exports to China increased by 175 percent last year, while imports grew by only 43 percent.

Bilateral trade volume ballooned to over $800 million in 1994 from $360 million the previous year following the state visit of former President Fidel Ramos.

12th biggest

The DFA said the Philippines' "remarkable" trade performance vis a vis China was due mainly to the increase in the export of bananas, finished electrical and electronic machinery, diodes, as well as fuel oils and liquefied petroleum gas.

Other Philippine exports that increased were photographic equipment, motor parts, electrical apparatus and electronic parts.

China was the Philippines' 12th biggest trade partner in terms of trade volume and the 12th biggest market of Philippine merchandise from January to October 2000.

COA auditors given 'incentives' by DECS

MORE than 100 auditors from the Commission on Audit have been receiving incentives from the collection system at the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Secretary Raul Roco yesterday said.

Roco said that of the 600 DECS personnel who receive incentives for deducting loan payments from public school teachers for private firms, 105 were auditors from the COA who were tasked to review the department's budget and expenditures.

The COA personnel—30 of them resident auditors and 75 detailed in the regional offices—get as much as the equivalent of 50 percent of their salaries for their services to DECS.

"The audit should be strict, but the auditors themselves receive incentive pay charged to the service fee," Roco said in his regular weekly briefing. "So the one who collects, and the one who should review what is collected are both paid."

The DECS made a total of P9 billion last year in "service fees" for making the deductions, according to records submitted to the bureau by lending firms, savings and loan agencies and insurance companies to which teachers are perennially in debt.

The service fee, which is contained in the General Appropriations Act, goes to the provident fund for teachers' cooperatives while a portion goes to incentive pay.

The DECS' service fee ranges from one percent to four percent of the loans deducted from the teachers' salaries. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Greenpeace raps 'midnight' ECC

THE INTERNATIONAL environmentalist group Greenpeace yesterday picketed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to demand the cancellation of an environmental clearance certificate (ECC) issued in the last days of the Estrada administration to a proposed coal-powered plant in Pulupandan, Negros Occidental.

"The midnight ECC issued by former environment secretary Antonio Cerilles to the Pulupandan Coal Plant was just the latest on the agency's growing list of abuses against the environment and the people. The new administration needs to make a clean break from it's predecessors' dirty past," said Red Constantino, energy campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

Joemari Gerochi, acting DENR head, said the department is reviewing the controversial ECC and the process that led to its issuance.

Cerilles approved the ECC for the $100-million 50mw power plant on Dec. 28, while the whole country's attention was focused on the impeachment of former President Joseph Estrada, Constantino said.

DENR records showed the builder of the plant formally applied for an ECC only on Jan. 19, he said.

DENR officials claimed it was the other way around. The developer applied in December and the department gave its approval on Jan. 19, they said.

Also, Constantino said, Cerilles gave his nod despite continued opposition to the project by the municipalities near the proposed power plant site. Government regulations require the approval of affected communities before the DENR can issue a project's ECC, he added. *Philip C. Tubeza*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, March 3, 2001
Saturday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: *Is 58:9-14*
Gospel: *Lk 5:27-32*

Jesus noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax-office, and said to him, "Follow me." So Levi, leaving everything, got up and followed Jesus.

Levi gave a great feast for Jesus, and many tax collectors came to his house and took their place at table with the other people. Then the Pharisees and their fellow teachers complained to Jesus' disciples, "How is it that you eat and drink with tax collectors and other sinners?" But Jesus spoke up, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I have come to call to repentance; I call sinners, not the righteous."

Commentary:

It is said that the worse patient to cure is one who refuses to admit that one is sick. Jesus offers us a new vision in life and a new way of being and relating in the world. However, we get so bogged down with our ready-made answers that we are unable to see alternative attitudes and behaviors. Look within yourself and discover those new avenues to freedom.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Enforcement of foreign judgments or final orders—Generally, in the absence of a special compact, no sovereign is bound to give effect within its dominion to a judgment rendered by a tribunal of another country; however, the rules of comity, utility and convenience of nations have established a usage among civilized states by which final judgments of foreign courts of competent jurisdiction are reciprocally respected and rendered efficacious under certain conditions that may vary in different countries. In this jurisdiction, a valid judgment rendered by a foreign tribunal may be recognized insofar as the immediate parties and the underlying cause of action are concerned so long as it is convincingly shown that there has been an opportunity for a full and fair hearing before a court of competent jurisdiction; that trial upon regular proceedings has been conducted, following due citation or voluntary appearance of the defendant and under a system of jurisprudence likely to secure an impartial administration of justice; and there is nothing to indicate either a prejudice in court and in the system of laws under which it is sitting or fraud in procuring the judgment. A foreign judgment is presumed to be valid and binding in the country from which it comes, until a contrary showing, on the basis of a presumption of regularity of proceedings and the giving of due notice in the foreign forum. [Reference: Rule 39, Section 48] [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Philippine Aluminum Wheels, Inc. v. FASGI Enterprises, Inc., G.R. No. 137378, October 12, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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Dulux EL ECO 21W Interna, CW & DL

Dulux EL Longlife models
Dulux EL LL 5W Interna
Dulux EL LL 7W Interna & CW
Dulux EL LL 11W Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL LL 15W Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL LL 20W Interna, CW & DL
Dulux EL LL 23W Interna, CW & DL

Note: CW-Cool White; DL-Daylight

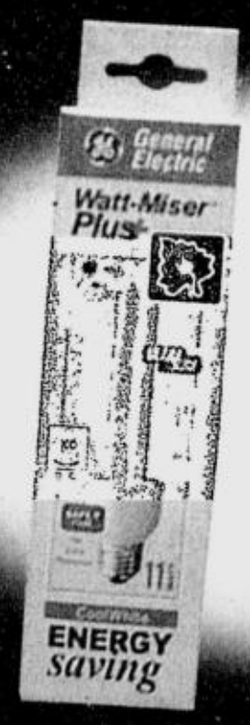
PHILIPS

Ecotone PL Electronic U models
Ecotone PLEU 11W WW & CDL
Ecotone PLEU 15W WW
Ecotone PLEU 20W WW & CDL
Ecotone PLEU 23W WW & CDL

Ecotone SL Electronic models
Ecotone SLE 11W WW & CDL
Ecotone SLE 15W WW & CDL
Ecotone SLE 20W WW & CDL

Ecotone SL Electronic Decor models
Ecotone SLED 15W WW & CDL
Ecotone SLED 20W WW & CDL

Note: WW-WarmWhite; CDL-Cool Daylight



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OPINION

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Early resolution

IT comes as a relief that the Supreme Court has decided to give on March 13 its decision on the issue of whether Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Joseph Ejercito Estrada is the legal president of the Republic. The Court has recognized that prolonging the uncertainty over the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration can only fuel political instability as well as intensify the nervousness of the market. During most of the week, the peso weakened against the US dollar and the stock market was jittery as Estrada stepped up his legal campaign to reclaim the presidency after people power drove him out of Malacañang.

EDITORIALS

The market became nervous after the Court denied that it had declared the Office of the President vacant when Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. swore in Ms Macapagal as President on Jan. 20. It reacted to the statement which created uncertainty over whether her assumption of the presidency was constitutional. Adding to the political volatility stemming from the constitutional ambiguity of the oath-taking is that the civil society forces which launched the people power protests are putting pressure on the Court to hasten its decision on the issue.

The return of uncertainty to the market is full of irony. Before Estrada abandoned his post, the crisis of confidence that swirled around him was the cause of the fall of the peso and the slide of the stock market. Now, after the Macapagal presidency has regained some of the market confidence and arrested the fall of the market and the peso, Estrada's legal action is the source of the new round of political and economic uncertainties. As one currency trader commented, "If you are an offshore investor and there's a question on the legitimacy of the President, you will begin to think what is stopping the old President from coming back after he has regained the support of the people."

The Court has come under criticism for issuing an order suspending for 30 days any action by the government to pursue criminal charges against Estrada for alleged corruption and plunder.

Race against time

DESPITE the legal cloud hanging over the legitimacy of her administration, President Macapagal has continued to consolidate her position. The other day, at a conference of Filipino business people, she received loud applause when she declared a dramatic policy reversal concerning the relationship between the government and the private sector. Striking a sharp contrast with the crony-driven mode of Estrada's relationship with his business friends, Ms Macapagal said, "Under this administration, we will let the private sector be the main driving force of the economy. No more presidential intervention or brokering in corporate disputes and takeovers." And to make sure that there was no ambiguity in her policy, she said that "corporate battles are for corporations to do, especially when there is no government share involved. We don't use the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System in order to hike values or to make one investment."

The statement underlines her message that the government will no longer intervene or compete in the market. She is fully aware of how such interventions on behalf of favored friends have led to the corruption scandals that eventually culminated in the ouster of Estrada.

In the process of consolidation of power, Ms Macapagal is racing against time. She has to rebuild confidence in government quickly and restart economic recovery.

In this process, two streams are clashing. The first is uncertainties arising from the legal challenge to the legitimacy of her administration. The counterstream seeks to initiate reforms on new politics being hampered by legal issues.

This clash provides the backdrop against which the Supreme Court is deliberating on the issues raised by Estrada, and the political consequences of giving Estrada a legal ticket to regain the presidency. The political consequences and turmoil that an Estrada restoration, courtesy of the Supreme Court, will generate, are too horrible to contemplate.

Highway robbery

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT'S time to replace the car stickers again, and the private subdivisions are expecting their yearly bonanza. They're going to sell those stickers again not only to their own residents for identification but also to the motorists passing through.

The residents will pay less, of course, because they're supposed to be co-owners of the subdivision streets. The non-residents merely passing through will be charged more because, from the viewpoint of the subdivision, they have no right to the use of its streets.

The motorists passing through can enjoy this privilege only if they agree to pay through the nose whatever price the subdivision demands. And the charges can be quite exorbitant at times. The non-residents will have to agree because the other alternative is more inconvenient and actually more expensive. That alternative is the use of the congested public streets.

With traffic still as heavy as ever, the motorists who choose to use the public streets will find themselves stuck in a long line of vehicles inching their way to wherever they are going. This will be a regular aggravation. This will involve much loss of time and gasoline, not to mention frayed nerves, before the day has even started. Most of them may have even gotten up early to avoid the annoyance, but it will still be there just the same.

By contrast, the motorists who are willing to pay the price may breeze through the several subdivisions on their way to their workplace or school without the oppression of traffic snarls, wasted gasoline and the anxiety of being late. It will be a nice way to start the day with a "God's in his heaven and all's right with the world" feeling.

I live in Merville, Parañaque City, and teach regularly at the UPHR College of Law in Las Piñas City. Passing through the public streets, I will have to use the South Superhighway to take me to the always-busy Alabang-Zapote Road, where the school is located. If I'm lucky, I will be there in one-and-a-half hours; if not, I'll be an hour late and angry with the world.

But I don't take that route because the other way is more convenient. From my house in Merville, I pass through the adjacent Moonwalk Village, thence through the Multinational Village, and finally through the Villanueva Subdivision, from where I cross Sucat Road to the Evacom Road and finally to the Alabang-Zapote Road.

The whole trip will take about 45 minutes or half the time to reach the same place through the public streets that I can use without a car sticker. Moreover, I'm usually in a cheerful mood except when I hear that Estrada or one of his mistresses has again withdrawn millions of pesos from their secret bank accounts.

The only hitch is that, for simply passing through the private subdivisions, I have to pay for the car stickers that will entitle me to enjoy that privilege. Worse, the subdivisions dictate the price I must pay on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, a condition all motorists merely passing through will have to accept. If they refuse, they will be denied entry by arrogant security guards and have to turn back to use the roundabout and busy public route.

In addition to my Merville car sticker, I pay Moonwalk P350, Multinational P600 and Villanueva P400 for permission to use their streets. The total cost to me for that privilege is P1,350. This could increase by the year, depending only on the discretion of the subdivisions, which could be abused without regulation.

To illustrate one such abuse: to reach Sucat Road from the Multinational Village, I have to pass through only a half-kilometer stretch of road at the Villanueva Subdivision; yet I have to pay P400 for its car sticker. Otherwise, I will have to turn back and waste the stickers I have bought for permission to pass through Moonwalk and Multinational.

In White Plains Association v. Legaspi, 193 SCRA 765, the Supreme Court held that the open space required by law to be reserved by the subdivision "for the use of the general public" includes the streets, the ownership of which is automatically vested in the government. As one of the justices who concurred in that decision, I have had second thoughts since then; but that is another story.

Assuming the correctness of that doctrine, the people in general are entitled to use the subdivision roads as public property. Even if they were not, such roads would still be subject to the police power, which is intended, among other laudable purposes, to promote the comfort and convenience of the people. To this end, such roads may be opened to the public as a practical solution to the traffic problems that continue to plague the urban centers.

It is true that the residents of these private villages could suffer much (but tolerable) inconvenience, but that is what the police power is all about. The welfare of the people is the supreme law. The lesser number should yield to the needs of the majority and be content with the altruistic feeling that, through their selflessness, they have contributed to the general welfare.

Even if it be conceded that the subdivision streets are private in nature, the fees charged for their use by non-residents may still be regulated. Such streets being affected with public interest, the government can control their use in the same way that it can prescribe ceiling prices for prime commodities and safety measures for common carriers. Jurisprudence sustaining the constitutionality of the house rentals law can apply to the abusive cost of car stickers.

I hope Congress will pay attention to this rampant problem. It is like the practice of many private schools that charge prohibitive tuition fees, plus a bond of P100,000 or so, for admission of 5-year-old tots to their exclusive academic halls. I have more to say about that in a future column, but in the meantime let's address ourselves to the car stickers. It's time the government took a close look at this form of highway robbery.

Will the elections be stolen again?

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IT was a beautiful sunny morning in July of 1995, the air fresh and cool at the Evercrest Country Club situated on the slope leading from Tagaytay to Nasugbu. Then Senate President Edgardo Angara had organized the "Third Senate Legislative Workshop" in preparation for the legislative session which was about to begin. I had given a short presentation on President Ramos' Social Reform Agenda the day before, and stayed the night.

As the senators and resource persons were enjoying breakfast in a dining room overlooking the golf course, a big white helicopter landed just outside, and minutes later the newly elected Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile appeared in the dining room and took a seat which happened to be next to mine. Looking out over the golf course, he expressed his admiration and went on to remark that he had played golf the day before.

That, to me, was a most revealing comment. Not only had he missed the first day of the workshop, but he had not been present for Antonio Abaya's presentation of figures strongly suggesting what has come to be known as "*dagdag-bawas*" in the recently concluded elections. Abaya had compared the Comelec and Namfrel returns, especially from late-reporting provinces, and noted some remarkable last-minute changes in position among senatorial candidates in the Comelec tallies—changes which occurred it seems after the Namfrel quick-count had shut down. Perhaps the most significant finding was that in nine of the 14 provinces where Abaya's comparisons showed significant changes in rank, Enrile was a beneficiary, and in some cases dramatically so. Thus he moved from 16th place to ninth in Bataan with a gain of 32,592 votes, from ninth to fifth in Misamis Occidental with a gain of 11,333 votes, and from 14th to first in Lanao del Sur!

In fairness it should be noted that other candidates benefited from suspicious last-minute shifts. But these were scattered and could be attributed to chance or to overenthusiastic local supporters rather than to a conspiracy.

Interesting too was the reaction of then Comelec chair and now Supreme Court Justice Bernardo Pardo, who did not attempt to address the facts adduced by Abaya but kept insisting that the elections had been "generally peaceful and honest."

In addition, Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion had called attention to a provision seemingly smuggled into the new election law which would disbar Namfrel from being the citizens' watchdog in the future. Thus, back in 1995 the question was being raised: "Is someone planning to steal future elections?"

Authoritative voices were raised at the time, calling for electoral reform. Jaime Cardinal Sin put it strongly: "In the last senatorial elections, we were cheated. We voted, but we were cheated." He called on the Senate Electoral Tribunal to act "with transparency and dispatch" to right the wrong that was done to the people.

But cleaning up the mess of the past elections would not be enough. The cardinal went on to point out the need to clean up the registration lists, to modernize the system of counting and tabulating results. Above all he called for a strong and proactive Comelec to supervise the electoral process, vigorously to follow up violations, to put pressure on Congress for reform and to educate the people.

We are now six years farther down the road and the question asked in July of 1995 is being asked even more insistently with regard to the upcoming elections, which will be crucial for the future of the nation. The record is far from encouraging. The Senate Electoral Tribunal, for example, spent three years evaluating evidence of "*dagdag-bawas*" in the 1995 elections and ended without a conclusion when the issue was rendered "moot and academic" by the election of protesters Aquilino Pimentel and Rodolfo Biazon in 1998. Enrile kept his seat, and "starred" as we know in the impeachment trial.

The Comelec under Pardo continued its policy of "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" until he was rewarded by an appointment to the Supreme Court. Meanwhile the program for computerization of elections has not gotten off the ground and we are faced by the prospect of hand-counting and tabulating in May with all the possibilities/probabilities of hanky-panky. We are told that the results of the senatorial race will not be available for a month or more, thus we can anticipate keeping the world championship for slow counting.

Little has been done by the Comelec in the area of voter education. And the "one-woman wrecking crew" on the Comelec, Commissioner Luzviminda Tanchangco, having blocked computerization, is now battling to exclude Namfrel, the only credible defense of the integrity of elections, as the citizens' watchdog.

It was the people's anger at a stolen election that precipitated Edsa I. It could happen again.

SC justices to vote 10-3?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HOW will the Supreme Court justices rule on the issue of Joseph Estrada's claim to being president-on-leave and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's being only an "acting" president? The whole town is talking about it and not a few are nervous about how the Court will rule. Informed sources say, however, that what could happen is that three of the 13 deliberating justices would claim that it is a "political question" and, therefore, not within the Court's competence to settle. On the other hand, the 10 other justices would reportedly rule that Estrada was faced with a permanent incapacity to govern, following the withdrawal of support by the military and police and the resignation of the majority of his Cabinet members, and this was why Ms Macapagal had to be sworn in to prevent a dangerous leadership vacuum.

* * *

In this connection, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, reacting to a recent lecture of his old law student, Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, titled "New Paradigms," quoted constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas as opining that "Erap may be the right party (to challenge the legality of Ms Macapagal's ascension to the presidency) but the (Supreme) Court is realistic and knows what it can and cannot achieve." For example, says Bernas, "it cannot undo what the Armed Forces, the National Police and the majority of the Cabinet members have done—withdraw their support for Erap." Salonga added in this category of things that "cannot be undone" what Erap himself and his family did in the early afternoon of Jan. 20—"when he relinquished his office and title and said goodbye with a smile to some of his Cabinet members and friends in Malacañang—an irreversible gesture millions of people must have seen on television." Nor can the diplomatic recognition given by many foreign governments to the Macapagal administration be undone, he stressed.

* * *

What the magistrates doubtless realize is that they cannot contradict or repudiate themselves when they bestowed on their chief, Hilario Davide Jr., the authority to administer the oath to Ms Macapagal. It was obvious that the justices were also fearful of what would happen to the Court if the vacuum of leadership persisted, due to the situation where, to quote Salonga, President Estrada could not exercise the powers of the presidency while the Vice President could not legally exercise those powers without taking the oath of office of the president. Had that vacuum persisted, the justices knew that either a military takeover or a revolutionary government could follow, both of which, to quote Salonga, "would have rendered the Supreme Court, as now constituted, obsolescent."

A lot is being made of the fact that Estrada appointed six out of the 15 justices, but I feel that the permanent incapacity theory would be supported by the majority.

* * *

I'm plugging for the return to the Senate of Quezon Rep. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada, inasmuch as I note that he seems to be lagging in the surveys. If he's not doing as well as the others, it may be because of his shyness, not his lack of qualifications. For Tañada's achievements as a two-term senator can measure up to those of his colleagues anytime.

There are many reasons for this plug for Tañada, apart from the fact that he was my elder brother Totit's classmate at the Ateneo de Manila. He belongs to the distinguished Tañada clan, once headed by his father, Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, whose name has become synonymous with nationalism, patriotism and human rights. Bobby has been a worthy son of a distinguished father.

* * *

A master of laws from Harvard University, Tañada, like his father, was prominent in the anti-Marcos struggle and was among the "Magnificent Twelve" senators who said no to the retention of the US military bases in 1992. As head of the Senate justice and human rights committee, he came up with two exhaustive reports on vigilante groups and the human rights situation in this country, which won plaudits from various groups. His voice has been consistent in warning against the impact of GATT-WTO on small, struggling Filipino companies and the need for safety nets. As head of the Senate blue ribbon committee, he investigated, among other things, the infamous Petroscam, where the Bangko Sentral accorded special treatment to a petrochemical corporation. He also authored so many laws that benefit the farmer, labor and women sectors and the environment. He consistently fought for the improvement of the plight of the impoverished coconut farmers, who have been victims of exploitation by the powerful.

In the aborted Senate impeachment trial, prosecutor Tañada was the team leader of Article No. 3, "culpable violation of the Constitution." Because of his integrity, he was the one trusted by key witness Clarissa Ocampo to link her up with the prosecution team when she decided to expose the real identity of Jose Velarde as Estrada.

* * *

Earlier I wrote that Joker Arroyo had "suffered" by having to postpone his bid for the Senate because another Arroyo twice beat him to it: Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But now, it seems that the Arroyos are making up for it. Presidential brother-in-law Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo has been seen personally escorting Joker around in Panay, introducing him as a "*pariente*." On the other hand, Ito Los Baños, a longtime aide of Ms Macapagal in the Senate and the vice president's office, is helping Joker arrange press conferences and schedules, and coaches the shy candidate on effective public appearance. With a name as overexposed in the trimedia as his and the Arroyos' "shepherding," Joker could top the senatorial race.

* * *

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Tito Guingona should not allow Amado Cortes, the consul-general in San Francisco, to continue in office a minute longer. Political appointees in the DFA have all been given until March 21 to come home, but Cortes is asking for a six-month extension.

Cortes was appointed by Joseph Estrada although he was over 70 years of age, because of the persistence of his wife, one-time actress Gloria Sevilla. But he is reported to be afflicted with tuberculosis and related diseases, and because he is in and out of the hospital, he hardly reports for work. In fact, a member of the consulate's staff is said to have been contaminated with his disease. The buzz in the consulate is that before responding to an invitation, diplomats would ask if the consul would be attending the function and they wouldn't go if he was going. Our consulate has become the talk of the town because of all this.

To top it all, Cortes' hospital bills have mounted. The insurance company refuses to pay more than $100,000, so the Philippine government is being asked to shoulder the remainder amounting to $120,000.

Women, choices and Rock

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE'S a new TV campaign for a brand of instant noodles that, playing a word game on its brand name, tells today's mothers how "lucky" they are, presumably because they have all the modern conveniences, including instant noodles, to bank on.

But how "lucky" is one mother in the ad, whose maid has upped and left, there's overtime at work, the jeep that takes her home breaks down, while a hungry child waits for her at home and the husband comes home tired from work. "Luckily," there are the instant noodles that allow her to make a meal quickly while letting her "save face" as a mother and wife before her family.

Well, I asked myself, wasn't she tired herself from work and overtime, at that? And how much physical effort does it take for a "tired" husband to open a packet of instant *pancit* and soak it in hot water for an emergency meal?

What does Philippine society expect of its women? How far have women gone in eking out their own space beside (and not behind, or below) their men?

At the launching of the Abanse! Pinay campaign last Wednesday, aptly enough on March 1, the first day of Women's Month, representatives of the women's party-list group were grilled by male journalists on what they thought was the "proper" place of women in society: "What do you think of a woman who goes into a relationship with a man only because she wants to have a child, with no plans to marry him?" "What can you say about women who don't ever want to have children?"

The presumption apparently is that marriage and motherhood are ordained goals in a woman's life. But as Karen Tañada, who is herself single, pointed out, what about nuns? Yes, what about nuns? They have been called by God to a vocation of service and prayer, a vocation that excludes marriage and motherhood. Are they "defying" natural law by responding to the call?

* * *

ALL our lives, women make choices and live with them. But unlike men, women who make unconventional or simply different choices are scolded and vilified, condemned as "unnatural," if not deviant.

This may have been the thinking that undergirded the message of the "lucky" mother ad, even if only subconsciously. Why was the harried mother rushing home? Because preparing dinner is a woman's job, and if her proxy, the maid, is not around to do it, the men in the family shouldn't be expected to step into the breach. Home and family are still a woman's prime priorities, or should be, and if you fail in the job, you are not a "good" woman. Instant noodles may help women slap together meals in an emergency, but they haven't helped free women from oppressive expectations, unfortunately.

Later in the day, Abanse! Pinay officers and nominees were hosted at lunch by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste. During a wide-ranging discussion that covered everything from the impeachment trial to Edsa to national campaigns, the *senadora* happened to mention why she wasn't at the Edsa Shrine on the fateful night of Jan. 16. This even if Abanse! Pinay chair Narz Lim had called to tell her, "You should join us here, people are chanting your name!"

"I was being a good wife," Loren explained, smiling. "It was Tony's birthday and I had gone home very late and exhausted. We had a very late dinner and I wanted to stay home and be with my family that night."

Loren's story sounds familiar. How many times have we—men and women—weighed our many obligations and put one over the other? But these are compromises made happily and willingly, without regrets. And they would not have been possible without the power of choice and the freedom to act on those choices.

Just some thoughts for Women's Month.

* * *

Disclosure: In the interest of transparency, I am the president of Abanse! Pinay, the women's party-list group. All officers of Abanse! Pinay serve on a voluntary, non-salaried capacity, drawn only by a common belief in women's empowerment and the capacity of women to change the world by changing ourselves.

* * *

FRIENDS of Raquel "Rock" Tiglao had long known about her health condition. But still it was as if a tectonic shock had riven our community when news came of her passing last Feb. 28. Her wake is being held at the UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice. Rock was co-founder of the Women's Crisis Center, which is today the Philippines' premier crisis care facility for victims of violence against women. It was in her honor and memory that the WCC staff issued a statement, portions of which follow:

"Those of us who have been privileged to serve with her and, at different times, have been lucky enough to be supported by her, have learned lessons of immeasurable value. Rock has taught us that women have rights and that women must be respected for the decisions we make because in the end, we are the experts on our own lives.

"Rock has taught us to underpin our work with analyses of the root causes of violence against women and to extract theoretical lessons from our experience. But she has also taught us that the foundation of good work is built on love and compassion.

"Her guidance to us has been simple:

- **"Learn about your feelings because fear comes from not knowing enough about them.**
- **"Learn to laugh about what you are facing.**
- **"Live with dignity.**
- **"Love fully; don't hold back.**

"The Women's Crisis Center's Resource and Training Institute has been initiated as a pilot in November 2000 with the support of the Ford Foundation. In recognition of Rock's invaluable contribution to the learnings in the field of violence against women, we take great pleasure in naming the institute the Raquel Edralin Tiglao Resource and Training Institute on Family Violence Prevention."

Bulawan (1)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SUBTITLED "Journal of Arts and Culture," this new publication of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is ostensibly "an outlet to liberate criticism from the constraints of university journals and gather critics in documenting valuable practices and developing theories around a national Filipino culture." At the risk of sounding like a major party pooper, I believe the editors must ask themselves who is the intended audience.

The question comes to mind because of the peculiar language employed. For instance, what does the phrase "the problematic of coloniality" mean? I may be wrong, but "problematic" used to be an adjective or an adverb, not a noun. This is the whole sentence: "The paper proposes to readdress the problematic of coloniality and modernity by exploring a kind of relationship that enables the history of Philippine colonial painting to inscribe in multiple forms conditions of conversion, artness and social movement in the very political economy and performance of the practice." Either you skip the rest of the introduction or you go over it very carefully, which I did but still I didn't understand it.

The next sentence does nothing to clarify the previous statement. "The paper regards painting as an idiom of both colonial civilization and folk/popular visuality, articulating the contested category of Philippine 'Identity' in the overlapping domains of art and revolution under the aegis of, but not solely determined by, 'nationalist' rhetoric." I have to apologize: I did not read the article. I have one very unsolicited piece of advice: Simplify. Convoluted prose is a turnoff.

However, the table of contents does clarify that the quarterly publication is devoted "to the scholarly discussion of issues, problems and other matters related to the history and development of culture in the country." The use of the words "scholarly" and "culture" may explain the reason for the previous tortured sentences, but I hate to accept that conclusion. It may however explain why culture has ended up being regarded as elitist and the domain of scholars, the academe and others who exist in rarefied atmospheres. Given the problem with the preservation of culture in this country, the lack of interest in anything that smacks of "age" (specifically as in the demolition of landmark structures "*kasi luma na*"), the perception that anything "cultural" must be dull (in many instances though this is quite true), I would strongly suggest a reevaluation of the potential market. Will the NCCA deliberately limit the audience for this quarterly? Or is the publication meant only for this select market that does not need a lesson in awareness, in which case they may end up speaking only to each other? A professor of mine used to say that if you didn't have an audience, you might as well close shop.

One of the aims of the publication is to "liberate criticism from the constraints of university journals." Now I saw nothing in this issue that could in any way be considered offensive by Ateneo's Philippine Studies, not even UST's Philipiniana Sacra, which by its title is self-limiting even if it does publish wonderful excerpts (translated) from my favorite friar, P. Alcina. As a matter of fact, it carries a critique of poet Angela Manalang Gloria who wrote this lovely stanza: "But I can love you with a love/As finite as the wave that dies/And dying holds from crest to crest/The blue of everlasting skies." It may interest you to know that JG Villa considered her "at her best...a third rater," and that the poor woman's work had "no passion, no drive, only a feeble nostalgia...Her verses never disturb, one reads them and is through with them." Ouch. Despite that, the image evoked can arouse curiosity and lead the reader to look for this poet's works.

Bulawan also carries a significant article by Regalado Trota Jose (Ricky, for short) that could encourage further research and perhaps lead to important discoveries in the field of Philippine music. Entitled, "Music Making in Old Bohol," the article is based on parish records of Tagbilaran, Baclayon and Jagna, providing data about pipe organs, musical groups and music books. One of the questions it brings up is the record of payments for laborers working on the organs and musicians' salaries that make one wonder whether the so-called "forced labor" isn't part and parcel of the "Leyenda Negra." Dr. Fernando Zialcita of the Ateneo has also voiced his skepticism about this alleged unfair labor practice that many believe existed although there does not appear to be any supporting documents to prove it. (There are references to it in the friar chronicles describing rebellions in Pampanga in the construction of galleons, but then the Spaniards weren't paid either so you could hardly call it discriminatory. Seems the Crown was short of money.)

If you're lucky enough to visit Bohol (and I sincerely encourage you to do so before taking off for Bangkok or Hong Kong), you will still find antique pipe organs in Baclayon, Dimiao, Garcia Hernandez, Loay, Loboc, Loon and Maribojoc. By the end of the 19th century, Ricky tells us, there were "at least eleven organs in Bohol. This is the highest known number of such musical instruments in any province in the country." Granted you cannot give what you don't have, still one can only wonder what would have happened if the friars had been more interested in math and the sciences.

Toto

YOUNGBLOOD

Armie Margaret Lee

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TO THIS day, I still can't says whether being an only child is more of an advantage than a drawback. What I do know is that I am constantly in search of someone to whom I can be a sister.

In grade school, when my friends and I started engaging in bonding sessions, conversations ran from so and so getting *buko* by her crush (gasp!) to who was the most *maarte* in class (complete with eye rolling). They would also tell me that I was very fortunate not to have any siblings. My protestations that they were actually luckier were more often than not met with "*Ano ka? Ikaw nga dyan ang maswerte eh. Gusto mo, palit tayo?*" Then they would punctuate their arguments by offering to give their siblings to me for free.

But just when I was starting to believe that I was in an enviable position indeed, I began to rethink things. People think that the biggest perks of being an only child, among others, are being able to get anything you want and having your parents' undivided attention. Not true. I'm not spoiled, mind you. My mom taught me early on that turning on the tears in the department store should not mean getting that Barbie doll I was pointing to. She would buy me something only if I deserved it, not because I put on a performance worthy of an Oscar in the toys section.

The "you're so lucky because you have your parents' 100 percent attention" is another story. I guess I'm saying this because I never really got to experience what it's like to compete with an overachieving brother or a bratty little sister for my parents' attention, but for me, being the only kid in sight has been at times a drag. My mom was inclined to turn me into someone like her, even though I'm her total opposite. We would get into petty fights because she wanted me to wear a dress while I felt like wearing jeans. I'll only go as far as saying that, for elaborating on it would mean writing another article.

Of course, as any only child will tell you, one of the major drawbacks is the feeling of loneliness. True, but in my case, it's finding myself having a hard time connecting with people. Deep inside, I longed to be someone I never came to be: a sister.

Naturally, I turned to my relatives to seek satisfaction for my longing, but to no avail. I'd spend endless summers playing with my cousins on my mother's side but somehow I never felt truly like a sister to them. It was like the line was clearly drawn between cousin and sister.

I am the oldest in my father's side, but I didn't play the role of *ate*, either. Instead, I have this cousin who's six months younger than me, who not only is the eldest in her family, but who assumed the role of *ate ng bayan* as well. So there went my *ate* dream.

I gave up on it, and I guess it showed in my being aloof to people, especially to kids. I didn't know how to relate with them. I kept my distance from babies and they seemed to be afraid of me. My attempts at being close to them would end disastrously, because I would carry them the wrong way and they would come close to slipping out of my hands.

Ten months ago, things changed. As I was walking home from school one afternoon, I noticed this baby boy in his mother's arms outside our apartment pointing skyward. I had never seen them before, so I thought they must be visiting someone. It turned out they weren't. The baby's mother, Beth, was the new helper of our neighbor, who lived two doors away. That was Toto's entry into my life.

Every afternoon, he would be outside the apartment pointing at things. It didn't take long for me to be drawn to the boy. He was struggling to speak and I would teach him how to say "moon," as he pointed upward.

One night while I was watching TV, Beth and Toto came to our apartment. Beth told me very excitedly that Toto could say "moon." I was filled with delight myself, and so I tried to add more words to his vocabulary.

He stayed in the city for seven months. I watched him grow. My mom and I would take him almost every day out to lunch or *merienda*. We went to Mass with Toto and his mom. He knocked at our door every morning, and greeted us with his sweet smile as soon as the door was opened. He called me *ate*.

Later, he began calling me A-mie. It was so cute. My mom would carry him outside and from our second-floor bedroom, I would wave to him from the window and he would shout in glee, "A-mie! A mie!"

He endeared himself to many people who came to know him, but he and I shared a special bond. I would pretend to be crying, and he would immediately come to me and put his arms around me. Other people tried that trick, but it was only with me that he reacted that way.

But alas, it was time for him to go back to Capiz. Of course, he had no idea where he was going, as he even waved at me enthusiastically from inside the car that was to take them to the pier. I felt so empty that day.

Now I miss his smiles. I miss his knocking on the door. I miss his comforting arm. I miss his high-pitched voice going, "Aaaate."

And, yes, I learned to carry babies because of him. Funny, I truly felt like an *ate* to someone I wasn't even remotely related to.

Armie Margaret Lee, 19, is a sophomore at the Ateneo de Manila University.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

11 Indians' deportation

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman filed before the Sandiganbayan charges of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act on Nov. 4, 1994 against former Immigration Commissioner Zafiro Respicio and Associate Commissioners Manuel Roxas and Bayani Subido Jr. and NBI Deputy Director Arturo Figueras. Another case for falsification of public documents was also filed against the BID commissioners.

The charges arose from the controversial deportation on Aug. 12, 1994 of 11 Indians who were caught in possession of 6,668.1 kilograms of methaqualone or madrax, a prohibited drug. Respicio, Subido and Roxas allegedly disregarded the fact that the Indians were facing trial before the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court and issued an order granting their petition for self-deportation.

Figueras, the leader of the team that arrested the Indians, was included in the complaint for not opposing the Indians' release from the NBI jail. Under Philippine laws, any foreigner facing criminal charges may be allowed to leave only after the case against him has been resolved, or if convicted, after he has served his sentence.

The Sandiganbayan ordered the arrest of the four accused on Jan. 26, 1995, after their motion to defer the issuance of warrants of arrest and motion for reinvestigation were denied.

The accused moved to quash the information but their motion was denied on June 21, 1995. Five days later, they entered pleas of not guilty. Roxas was arraigned on Jan. 31, 1996.

The accused filed a petition with the Supreme Court concerning their motion to quash. The First Division dismissed the petition on July 8, 1996.

Respicio, Subido and Roxas subsequently resigned from their posts. This prompted the prosecution to seek the suspension of Figueras on June 30, 1995. On Aug. 10, 1998, the Sandiganbayan granted the prosecution's motion and ordered the suspension of Figueras. Figueras appealed to the Supreme Court, but it upheld the decision of the Sandiganbayan in a resolution dated Oct. 19.

Case status: The prosecution has finished presenting the evidence. The accused filed demurrers to evidence on different dates between July and August 1999. On Dec. 7, 2000, the court denied all the demurrers for lack of merit. The next hearing was scheduled for this month. ***Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department***

LETTERS

Greater vigilance needed on meat imports

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations for your well-researched report on the mad cow article last Feb. 26.

I agree that due to our deficiencies in diagnosing this disease whether in cattle or humans, our historical data on importations of beef from Europe for the past 10 years will make one logically think there is a distinct possibility that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is with us already, carried by the varied processed foods we have been eating.

What the government should do is conduct sample tests on meat products sold in the wet markets and supermarkets if only to reassure consumers that our products are safe. And should the inevitable happen, it should take these products off the shelves and properly dispose of them immediately. (Maybe they can be dumped in the China Sea for the sharks to eat, since the disease afflicts only mammals.)

In the case of our association members, we source our feedlot-fattened animals only from Australia, a country where BSE is unknown. In fact, Australia is known for its clean image as far as its agricultural exports, especially beef, go. I would even go as far as saying that our beef, sold mainly in the wet markets, from freshly slaughtered cattle would be very safe from contamination by BSE.

To the quarantine officials of the Department of Agriculture, I would give the advice to take their jobs more seriously so that we can assure our people that only "clean" beef products from recognized safe countries are allowed into our country. The foot and mouth scare is once again out in the open with the recent outbreak of the disease in England. Let us not be too complacent about our food import protocols. Our livestock development programs that envisage more self-sufficiency in animal production will go nowhere if we are not strict with our "disease import protocols." *Konting ingat pa!*—**MARTIN GOMEZ, president, Cattle Feedlot Association of the Philippines**

Yielding to people with better credentials

IT was an honor and a thrill to be among the 17 finalists for the People Power Coalition senatorial lineup. To be among the 17 out of millions of Filipinos is a story that I will tell and retell my grandchildren.

It was an awesome experience to speak before the representatives of civil society and top government officials led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona, as they went through the process of selection based on consultation.

The final selection has been made and I yield to those fine ladies and gentlemen with better credentials and better chances of leading the coalition, and the enlightened nation, to victory this May.

I shall work hard to do my modest share to help them win. My family will be solidly for them.

I will urge all those within my circle of influence—my *kababayans* in Parañaque, Romblon, Iloilo and Bohol, my schoolmates and friends in Quezon City, my mistahs in the Philippine Military Academy, business and civic groups, former officemates, everyone, to vote for them.—**REP. ROILO GOLEZ, Parañaque City**

Poor kind of politics

ELECTIONS are near, and again I would say that the future of our political system is again at stake. I am sending this e-mail because I want to at least show my concern for the government, which is undergoing many kinds of crises at this point. But I want to focus on the delicate political developments we face.

We've just ousted Joseph Estrada from the presidency, and now elections are coming and political parties are bandying their utopian ideologies around again. I am very much against the partisan political system in our government. I know there is nothing wrong with coalitions, but the fact is that after their election victory, those candidates take on the obligation to promote the interests of the coalition or party that made them win and that can lead to all sorts of corruption.

After they are elected, officials who belong to different parties would usually not agree with each other on any number of issues, which result in essential public services not being rendered to the people.

All that simply add to the many problems of our brand of politics. Until we mature in our politics, the issues of poverty, exploitation and injustice will continue to be with us.—**OWEN BALACUIT, Sugbongcogon, Misamis Oriental**

Honasan's legislative record

THIS is a dissenting opinion to the column of retired Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz (PDI, 2/18/01) titled, "Reject the misfits." He wrote that Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan "was virtually invisible during the past five years but has suddenly resurrected to beg for another term."

The basic problem with his honor is that he seems to equate performance in the Senate with visibility in the tri-media. As a former justice of the Supreme Court, he should know that there are many good jurists who are "virtually invisible."

A graver lapse is his propensity to shoot his mouth off. May we remind him as we reminded him more than two years ago that lawmaking is definitely much more than standing on the floor every session day to grandstand on every conceivable subject.

In case he has forgotten, Honasan is the first truly independent candidate who won a seat in the Senate (according to the records of the Commission on Elections). And he has wisely used his mandate to craft meaningful pieces of legislation to address the common welfare of our people, namely:

- Republic Act No. 8368 or an Act Repealing Presidential Decree No. 772 or the Anti-Squatting Law. With this law, Honasan repealed a martial law decree that declared squatting as a criminal offense.
- Republic Act No. 8437 or the Rent Control Law Extension Act. This act provides certain limitations in rent increase, benefiting a large segment of Filipinos who rent their abodes.
- Republic Act No. 8501 or the Condonation of Housing Loan Penalties Act. This law condones the interest and penalties imposed on beneficiaries with housing loans from the GSIS, SSS, HDMF (Pag-Ibig Fund), NHMFC and NHA who missed their payments.
- Republic Act No. 8532 or An Act Increasing the Agrarian Reform Fund to Fifty Billion Pesos. With this law, Honasan addressed the needs of farmers by increasing the Agrarian Reform Fund.
- Republic Act No. 8749 or the Clean Air Act. A landmark environmental legislation that mitigates the country's worsening air pollution.
- Republic Act No. 9003 or the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act. This law sets the policy in addressing the present garbage crisis affecting our local communities including that of Metro Manila.
- Concurrent Resolution No. 5 or An Act Granting Amnesty to Rebels. In pursuit of the senator's goals of national reconciliation, peace and unification, amnesty was granted to rebels to enable them to become productive members of society once again.

It is most unfair for the retired justice to label the senator as a "misfit." Perhaps, he should just wait for the voice of the electorate on May 14, 2001.—**MELCHIOR I. ACOSTA JR., chief of staff, Office of Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan, 2/F Videospecs Bldg., Fernando Ma. Guerrero corner Julian Felipe Streets, CCP Complex, Pasay City**

Wrong decision on Wong case

THE SPONTANEOUS groundswell of support for the flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, Rear Admiral Guillermo G. Wong, clearly indicates that the Filipino people are wide awake and cannot help but feel scandalized by the ironic turn of events because instead of upholding his morally upright officer, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes chose to side with the lower-ranking officers to save the institution.

We who were Wong's classmates in the Sta. Ana Elementary School and the Villamor High School (both public schools in Sta. Ana, Manila) see this position espoused by Reyes to be naive and myopic because, unwittingly, he has destroyed the very institution he wants saved. Ignoring and keeping one's eyes closed to reported irregularities and wrongdoings within the system weakens and hastens the demise of the institution. Being the professional soldier that he is, does Reyes really believe that lower-ranking officers would give illegal orders to their men to storm the Navy headquarters and bodily throw Wong into the sea? These officers might have been hurt, but their being professional soldiers would prevent them from taking any action that would permanently stain their badge of honor.

Wong is an honorable man. We know him well because we grew up together and have stayed close for 50 years now. Through these years, we have known him for his deep love of country and dedication and loyalty to his job. Institutionalizing honesty and integrity in his work has been the hallmark of his record. His professionalism and his being a loving husband, father, son and brother to his family carried him to a highly successful military career. We believe his promotions were all achieved on merit.

It is not only us who see Wong as an honorable gentleman. His superiors and colleagues in the military know him to be trustworthy and a decent person who lives simply and within his means. A former Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff described him as "meticulously honest." Newly designated National Security Adviser Roilo Golez had only kind words for Wong, saying he knew him as a man of integrity.

It is imperative for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to take a direct hand in Admiral Wong's case. If she is serious in raising the moral standards in her administration, she can show her decisiveness and not be a party to the sham handling of Wong's case.—**GILBERTO M. CAROLINO, Sta. Ana, Manila**

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE MEMORANDUM OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR THE POSITION OF SENATOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 14, 2001 ELECTIONS.	BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.	Chairman
	TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	Commissioner
	JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
	LANTION, Ralph C.	Commissioner
	SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
	BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
	TUASON, Florentino, Jr. A.	Commissioner

PROMULGATED ON: 1 March 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 3632

This pertains to the Memorandum of the Law Department dated 27 February 2001, relative to the sixty seven (67) Certificates of Candidacy for the position of Senator which were filed before the Law Department.

The Memorandum reads:

"Submitted for due consideration are sixty seven (67) Certificates of Candidacy for Senator which were filed before the Law Department.

A careful examination of said Certificates of Candidacy reveals that the following candidates were nominated by duly registered political parties with the Commission, to wit:

I. LABAN NG DEMOKRATIKONG PILIPINO (LDP)
1. Angara, Edgardo J.
2. Ejercito Estrada, Luisa P.
3. Enrile, Juan Ponce
4. Lacson, Panfilo M.
5. Madrigal, Maria Ana Consuelo A.S.
6. Puno, Ricardo Jr. V.
7. Tamano, Ombra A.

II. PEOPLE'S REFORM PARTY (PRP)
1 Defensor Santiago, Miriam P.

III. LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP
1. Flavier, Juan M.
2. Herrera, Ernesto F.
3. Pagdanganan, Roberto M.
4. Recio, Ralph G.

IV. PARTIDO DEMOKRATIKO PILIPINO LAKAS NG BAYAN (PDP-LABAN)
1. Osmeña, Sergio III R.

V. LIBERAL PARTY
1. Pangilinan, Francis N.
2. Tañada, Wigberto E.

VI. KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN (KBL)
1. Casil, Juan M.
2. Chavez, Melchor G.
3. Lozano, Oliver O.
4. Nueva, Norma C.

VII. NACIONALISTA PARTY
1. Adaza, Homobono

VIII. AKSYON DEMOKRATIKO (AKSYON)
1. Monsod, Solita A.

Mrs. Luisa P. Ejercito Estrada has two (2) nominations; one (1) from the LDP and two (2) from the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) these two (2) political parties are not registered as a coalition with this Commission to constitute as one (1) political party pursuant to Section 2, par. (5), Article XI, 1987 Constitution. Consequently, Ms. Ejercito Estrada should be considered as independent candidate for Senator, pursuant to Section 6, par. (3) of Resolution No. 3253 promulgated on September 28, 2000.

Running as independent senatorial candidates who are either present or former incumbent public officials, popular TV personalities or broadcasters, are:

1. ARROYO, Joker P.
2. CHATO, Liwayway V.
3. DE CASTRO, Noli L.
4. DRILON, Franklin M.
5. HONASAN, Gregorio B.
6. MAGSAYSAY, Ramon Jr. B.
7. MERCADO, Orlando S.
8. MORATO, Manuel L.
9. NAVARRO, Rod B.
10. RASUL, Santanina T.
11. SABIO, Camilo L.
12. VILLAR, Manuel Jr. B.
13. YASAY, Perfecto Jr. R.

Moreover, there are other independent candidates who filed their certificates of candidacy for Senators, such as the following:

1. Abilona, Orlando C.	- educator
2. Almirante, Alvin Alvincent G.	- businessman
3. Andamo, Nelson B.	- chemist engineer
4. Arribas, Juanito C.	- realtor
5. Bacolod, Pio A.	- contractor
6. Bajunaid, Moner M.	- university professor
7. Biego, Vicente N.	- businessman/civic leader
8. Blaza, Melchor	- lawyer
9. Bragancia, Enrique P.	- artist/designer
10. Bumatay, Renato B.	- entertainer/laborer
11. de Guzman, Clemente A.	- agriculturist
12. de Leon, Nicanor G.	- certified public accountant
13. Dulalia,Elias B.	- businessman
14. Escosa, Cesar K.	- certified public accountant
15. Fabella, Vicente F.	- buisnessman
16. Guillergan, Gherry P.	- businessman
17. Gil, Eddie Conde	- businessman
18. Lagata, Merlito O.	- AFP rot.
19. Macariola, Castor A.	- real estate/insurance agent
20. Maglira, Daniel R	- singer/composer
21. Mercado, Orlando S.	- journalist
22. Nadal, Jaime P.	- self-employed
23. Padla, Eutiquio Z.	- veteran
24. Palanca, Edmundo	- businessman
25. Perez, Reynaldo O.	- employee
26. Po, Fernando Jr. A.	- businessman
27. Quibedo, Emilio Jr. E	- electrician
28. Roberto, Carlos S.	- painter/writer/publisher
29. Serrano, Bernardo G.	- businessman
30. Tangalin, Bonifacio U.	- agent
31. Tavaco, Ernesto A.	- businessman
32. Velarde, Ruperto Jr. C.	- farmer/engineer
33. Velasquez, Vic R	- lawyer

The records of the Office of the Clerk of the Commission disclosed that candidate for Senator Orlando S. Mercado filed a Petition dated February 16, 2001 docketed as SPA No. 01-010 entitled "ORLANDO S. MERCADO VERSUS NORBERTO L. MERCADO AND ORLANDO C. ABITONA", invoking the grounds (a) that would cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of their name and surname with the petitioner; (b) that the respondents have no bonafide intention to run for Senator because they cannot Wage a Nationwide Campaign, and (c) that they do not have a platform of government. The petitioner prays as follows:

"WHEREFORE, premises considered, petitioner respectfully prays that Norberto L. Mercado and Orlando C. Abitona be declared as nuisance candidates and/or their certificates of candidacy be denied due course."

Respondents Norberto L. Mercado and Orlando S. Abitona, in their Answer with Motion to Set Case for Hearing on Oral Arguments dated February 21, 2001 categorically and vehemently denied the aforementioned imputations against them.

In his manifestation in Support of the Capability of Senatorial Candidate Eddie C. Gil to Wage a Nationwide Campaign, dated February 22, 2001, whose political party "Partido Isang Bayan Isang Diwa", was denied registration by the Commission, candidate for senator Eddie C. Gil, through counsel, manifested as follows:

"1. Our client Mr. Eddie C. Gil filed his Certificate of Candidacy for Senator in the coming May 14, 2001 National Elections as the sole candidate of the political party "Partido Isang Bayan Isang Diwa", a copy of the Certificate of Candidacy is enclosed as ANNEX A.

2. Mr. Gil and the Partido Isang Bansa Isang Diwa have the ability and financial capacity to wage a nationwide campaign in support of his candidacy as Senator. The Partido Isang Bansa Isang Diwa is an organized political party nationwide. In support thereof, petitioner respectfully submits the following certifications of Regional Election Directors of Region I, II, III, X, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the National Capital Region (NCR), and Region XII that the Partido Isang Bansa Isang Diwa of which the petitioner is the only candidate for Senator is organized within their respective regions, namely:

(a) ANNEX B - Certification of the Acting Regional Election Director of Region I that the Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa Party exists not only in the province of Pangasinan but also in Region I;

(b) ANNEX C - Certification of the Regional Election Director of Region II that the Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa Party exists in Region II;

(c) ANNEX D - Certification of the Acting Regional Election Director of Region III, San Fernando, Pampanga that the Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa is a political party that has municipal, provincial coordinators in Region III;

(d) ANNEX E - Certification of the Regional Election Director of Region X that the Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa exists as a political party in Region X;

(e) ANNEX F - Certification of the Regional Election Director of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) that the Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa Party exists in the Cordillera Administrative Region;

(f) ANNEX G - Certification of the Acting Director of the National Capital Region (NCR) that the "Isang Bayan, Isang Diwa Party" **"exists within this region, specially in Makati 2nd District, Quezon City 2nd, 3rd, 4th Districts and Taguig, Metro Manila as per findings of our Election Officers in said places."**

(g) ANNEX H - Certification of the Regional Election Director of Region XII that "PARTIDO ISANG BANSA, ISANG DIWA is existing only in the province of Maguindanao";

3. The Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa has a national organization composed of Regional, Provincial, City and Municipal Chairmen. Their names, addressed, and telephone numbers are shown in ANNEXES I, I-1 to I-6. It also has municipal organizers who has informed in writing the various Municipal and City Election Offices of their organization, copies are hereto enclosed as ANNEXES I-7 to I-53. It is also active in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as shown by the Certification of the Regional Executive Secretary of the ARMM hereto enclosed as ANNEX I-54.

4. The Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa also has candidates who filed their certificates of candidacy for the position of Governor, Vice-Governor, Mayor, Vice-Mayor, City and Municipal Councilors, copies of the certificates of candidacies are enclosed as ANNEXES J, J-1 to J-14. As soon as the other candidates have filed their certificates of candidacies on February 28, 2001, the petitioner will submit the same to the Honorable Commission.

5. That our client Mr. Eddie C. Gil is ready to present to the Honorable Commission evidence to show that he is capable of waging a nationwide campaign for the position of Senator in the coming May 14, 2001 elections. In fact, he is now busy campaigning in the various cities and provinces of the country."

It is informed that because of the denial by the Commission (First Division) of the registration of the Partido Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa Party, Petitioner Eddie C. Gil filed a Motion for Reconsideration dated February 14, 2001 with the Commission En Banc, praying for the grounds stated therein to reconsider and set aside its Resolution of February 9, 2001 and that petitioner be registered and accredited as a political party with national constituency.

A review of the records of the Law Department disclosed that sixteen (16) candidates for Senator in the May 14, 2001 elections, previously filed their certificates of candidacy for the position of either President, Vice-President or Senator during the May 11, 1998 Elections. Nevertheless, their certificates of candidacy were denied due course by the Commission. These candidates are:

1. Arribas, Juanito C.	- for Vice-President
2. Blaza, Melchor	for Senator
3. Brego, Vicente N.	- do -
4. Chavez, Melchor G.	- do -
5. Dulalia, Elias B.	- do -
6. Escosa, Cesar K.	for President
7. Fabella, Vicente F.	- do -
8. Gil, Eddie C.	- do -
9. Lagata, Merlito O.	- do -
10. Macariola, Castor A.	for Senator
11. Mercado, Roberto L.	- do -
12. Nueva, Norma C.	- do -
13. Palanca, Edmundo R.	for President
14. Po, Ferdinand Jr. A	- do -
15 Roberto, Carlos S.	for Senator
16. Tangalin, Bonifacio U.	for President

It appears that Melchor G. Chavez and Norma C. Nueva filed their certificates for candidacy for Senator as among the official candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) that issued its Certificates of Nomination to said candidates.

COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION:

Pursuant to Section 3, Article VI, of the Constitution, it provides "no person shall be a Senator unless he is a natural born citizen of the Philippines, and on the day of the election, is at least thirty-five years of age, able to read and write, a registered voter and a resident of the Philippines for not less than two years immediately preceding the day of the election."

There is no dispute that the sixty seven (67) senatorial candidates meet the above constitutionally mandated qualifications. Nevertheless, Section 69 of the Omnibus Election Code defining what are nuisance candidates, provides:

"Sec. 69. Nuisance candidates. - The Commission may, motu propio or upon a verified petition of an interested party, refuse to give due course to or cancel a certificate of candidacy if it is shown that said certificate has been filed to put the election process in mockery or disrepute or to cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of the names of the registered candidates or by other circumstances or acts which clearly demonstrate that the candidate has been filed and thus prevent a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate." (Underscoring ours)

Upon an incisive examination of the records in its entirety of the sixty seven (67) persons who filed their certificates of candidacy for Senator, the Law Department RECOMMENDS as follows:

(A) To give due course to the certificates of candidacy to the official candidates of the hereunder political parties, namely:

I. LABAN NG DEMOKRATIKONG PILIPINO (LDP)
1 Angara, Edgardo J.
2. Enrile, Juan Ponce
3. Lacson, Panfilo M.
4. Madrigal, Ma. Ana Consuelo A.S.
5. Puno, Ricardo Jr. V.
6 Tamano, Ombra A

II. PEOPLE'S REFORM PARTY (PRP)
1 Defensor Santiago, Miriam P.

III. LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP
1 Flavier, Juan M.
2. Herrera, Ernesto F.
3. Pagdanganan, Roberto M.
4 Recto, Ralph G

IV. PARTIDO DEMOKRATIKO PILIPINO LAKAS NG BAYAN (PDP-LABAN)
1 Osmeña, Sergio III R.

V. LIBERAL PARTY
1. Pangilinan, Francis N.
2 Tañada, Wigberto E

VI. KILUSANG BAGONG LIPUNAN (KBL)
1 Casil, Juan M
2. Chavez, Melchor G.
3. Lozano, Oliver O.
4 Nueva, Norma C.

VII. NACIONALISTA PARTY
1 Adaza, Homobono

VIII. AKSYON DEMOKRATIKO (AKSYON)
1 Monsod, Solita C

because they have the corresponding platforms of government and have the bonafide intention to run for Senator as they can wage a nationwide campaign for being supported by their respective political parties;

(B) To give due course to the certificates of candidacy of the following independent candidates, namely:

1. Estrada, Luisa Ejercito P.
2. Arroyo, Joker P.
3. Chato, Liwayway V.
4. De Castro, Noli L.
5. Drilon, Franklin M.
6. Honasan, Gregorio B.
7. Magsaysay, Ramon Jr. B.
8. Mercado, Orlando S.
9. Morato, Manuel
10. Navarro, Rod
11. Rasul, Santanina T.
12. Sabio, Camilo L.
13. Villar, Manuel Jr. B.
14. Yasay, Perfecto

because they have the bonafide intention to run for Senator and they can wage a nationwide campaign;

(C) To hold in abeyance giving due course to the certificates of candidacy of Norberto L. Mercado and Orlando C. Abitona until after the petition of Orlando S. Mercado shall be finally decided by this Commission; and the Clerk of Court shall immediately calendar the case for hearing; and that of Eddie C. Gil until after the Commission En Banc decide the pending Motion for Reconsideration of Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa Party.

(D) Not to give due course to the certificates of candidacy to the following independent candidates:

1. Almirante, Alvin G.	- businessman
2. Andamo, Nelson B.	- chemist engineer
3. Arribas, Juanito C.	- realtor
4. Bacolod, Pio A.	- contractor
5. Bajunaid, Moner M.	- university professor
6. Biego, Vicente N.	- businessman/civic leader
7. Blaza, Melchor	- lawyer
8. Bragancia, Enrique P.	- artist/designer
9. Bumatay, Renato B.	- entertainer/laborer
10. de Guzman, Clemente A.	- agriculturist
11. de Leon, Nicanor G.	- certified public accountant
12. Dulalia,Elias B.	- businessman
13. Escosa, Cesar K.	- certified public accountant
14. Fabella, Vicente F.	- businessman
15. Guillergan, Gherry P.	- businessman
16. Lagata, Merlito O.	- AFP rot.
17. Macariola, Castor A.	- real estate/insurance agent
18. Maglira, Daniel R.	- singer/composer
19 Nadal, Jaime P.	- self-employed
20. Padla, Eutiquio Z.	- veteran
21. Palanca, Edmundo R.	- businessman
22. Perez, Reynaldo O.	- employee
23. Po, Fernando Jr. A.	- businessman
24. Quibedo, Emilio Jr. E.	- electrician
25. Roberto, Carlos S.	- painter/writer/publisher
26. Serrano, Bernardo G.	- businessman
27. Tangalin, Bonifacio U.	- agent
28. Tavaco, Ernesto A.	- businessman
29 Velarde, Ruperto Jr. D.	- farmer/engineer
30. Velasquez, Vic R.	- lawyer

because they cannot wage a nationwide campaign, thus preventing a faithful determination of the true will of electorates."

SEC. 69 of the Omnibus Election Code as amended by Section 5 of R.A. No. 6646, gave COMELEC the power to motu propio cancel or deny due course to a certificate of candidacy of registered candidates.'

"Sec. 69. Nuisance candidates - The Commission may, motu proprio or upon verified petition of an interested party, refuse to give due course to or cancel a certificate of candidacy if it is shown that said certificate has been filed to put the election process in mockery or disrepute or to cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of the names of the registered candidates or by other circumstances or acts which clearly demonstrate that the candidate has no bonafide intention to run for the office for which the certificate of candidacy has been filed and thus prevent a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate."

During the deliberation of the sufficiency of the certificates of candidacy, and the above memorandum of the Law Department, the Commission, considering the dignity that must be accorded the office of Senator, the minimum qualifications established by the Constitution and electoral laws, the magnitude of the responsibilities of this office, as well as the need to wage a nationwide election campaign, observed that there are indications in the various certificates of candidacy received by the Commission that said certificates were filed to put the election process in mockery or disrepute or to cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of names of the registered candidates or by other circumstances or acts which clearly demonstrate that the candidate had no bonafide intention to run for the office for which the certificate of candidacy has been filed and thus prevent a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate.

The recommendation of the Law Department with respect to the certificates of candidacy of Norberto L. Mercado, Orlando S. Abitona and Eddie C. Gil merits consideration.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to approve the recommendation of the Law Department with modification and to cancel or otherwise deny due course to the certificates of candidacy of the following:

1. Almirante, Alvin G.	- businessman
2. Andamo, Nelson B.	- chemist engineer
3. Arribas, Juanito C.	- realtor
4. Bacolod, Pio A.	- contractor
5. Bajunaid, Moner M.	- university professor
6. Biego, Vicente N.	- businessman/civic leader
7. Blaza, Melchor	- lawyer
8. Bragancia, Enrique P.	- artist/designer
9. Bumatay, Renato B.	- entertainer/laborer
10. de Guzman, Clemente A.	- agriculturist
11. de Leon, Nicanor G.	- certified public accountant
12. Dulalia,Elias B.	- businessman
13. Escosa, Cesar K.	- certified public accountant
14. Fabella, Vicente F.	- businessman
15. Guillergan, Gherry P.	- businessman
16. Lagata, Merlito O.	- AFP rot.
17. Macariola, Castor A.	- real estate/insurance agent
18. Maglira, Daniel R.	- singer/composer
19. Nadal, Jaime P.	- self-employed
20. Padla, Eutiquio Z.	- veteran
21. Palanca, Edmundo R.	- businessman
22. Perez, Reynaldo O.	- employee
23. Po, Fernando Jr. A.	- businessman
24. Quibedo, Emilio Jr. E.	- electrician
25. Roberto, Carlos S.	- painter/writer/publisher
26. Serrano, Bernardo G.	- businessman
27. Tangalin, Bonifacio U.	- agent
28. Tavaco, Ernesto A.	- businessman
29. Velarde, Ruperto Jr. D.	- farmer/engineer
30. Velasquez, Vic R.	- lawyer
31. Mercado, Norberto L.	- journalist
32. Abilona, Orlando C.	- former public school teacher
33. Gil, Eddie C.	- businessman

Those who are adversely affected by this resolution are hereby given a period of five (5) days from the date of publication hereof to file a verified opposition in ten (10) copies with the Clerk of the Commission, this Commission, if they so desire.

Let the Education and Information Department cause the immediate publication of this resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

Cc: Chairperson
All Commissioners
Executive Director
The DEDO
The EID
The Law Department
The ERSD
The Clerk of the Commission

CIBAN PNPZENY/MR-memo (ban transfer#) cert. can.

The WORLD
MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Warships evacuate Borneo refugees

INDONESIA'S Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri (right) hugs a Madurese refugee during her tour of a makeshift refugee camp in the riot-torn town of Sampit in Central Kalimantan on Borneo Island, March 1. REUTERS

PALANGKARAYA, Indonesia—Three Indonesian Navy warships were scheduled to evacuate thousands of refugees from central Kalimantan Friday as elsewhere in the province life was returning to normal after nearly two weeks of bloody ethnic violence.

The ships were expected in the river port town of Sampit, where at least 20,000 people are sheltering in squalid camps after beihg driven from their homes by indigenous Dayak mobs.

At least 469 people have been killed in the past 13 days, many beheaded and mutilated. Thousands of homes and shops belonging to migrants have been torched in a campaign by Dayaks to rid the province of settlers.

Around 9,000 refugees are to be shipped Thursday to Indonesia's main island of Java, said Qomaruddin Sukhemi, a doctor at the largest camp adjoining a police station in the town.

Most of the refugees are settlers or descendants of settlers from the island of Madura. They are desperately short of food and medicine.

On Thursday Indonesia's Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri toured the camp and promised to improve conditions.

On Friday, she attended an emergency meeting with top security officials to discuss ways to resolve the crisis and handle the refugee problem.

Elsewhere in Palangkaraya, the provincial capital, children were returning to school and shops and businesses were reopening following riots that swept the city earlier this week. Some people were salvaging iron and other valuable materials from buildings torched by Dayak gangs.

"We are just pleased it is all over," said one resident who identified himself by the single name of Aden. "Lets pray it never happens again."

Both Megawati and President Abdurrahman Wahid have come under fire for their handling of the crisis, which critics say was both callous and lethargic.

"Wahid is not a good president," said Edwin, a Dayak villager in a remote settlement in the province. "As long as he has been president there have been riots. He must resign."

Wahid is in Saudi Arabia for the Muslim Hajj pilgrimage. He left the country as the killings were beginning almost two weeks ago.

Analysts say that the Borneo bloodshed and the lack of compassion displayed by Wahid has undermined his political support. His parliamentary rivals have been using his absence to shore up support for a push to topple him. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Mori gets 2nd reprieve

TOKYO—Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori got a reprieve Friday from another showdown with Japan's opposition parties, who said they would delay a motion of no confidence against him until next week. Leaders of Japan's four main opposition parties agreed to submit the motion immediately after the 2001 budget was passed in the lower house of Parliament, but later backed down and said they would wait until Monday. *AP*

No extradition for 'Fuji'

TOKYO—Japan will not extradite former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, whom Peruvian authorities have charged with criminal abuse of power, a Japanese minister yesterday said. Justice Minister Masahiko Komura told reporters that because Fujimori possesses Japanese citizenship Japan would not hand him over to Peru if asked to do so, according to a ministry spokesperson who demanded anonymity. Peru's attorney general on Wednesday charged Fujimori with abandonment of office and dereliction of duty. However, Komura said the South American country has yet to demand Fujimori's extradition. *AP*

Stolen luxury cars in Asia

WHITE PLAINS, New York—Thirty-two luxury cars, stolen on demand from driveways, shopping malls and commuter parking lots in rich suburbs north of New York City have been traced to an international ring that was secretly shipping the vehicles to Asia, officials said Thursday. The cars—BMWs, Mercedes, Lexuses and Audis—stolen from Westchester county, could be recovered as they arrive at Far East ports, said state police Superintendent James McMahon. Eight men were arrested Wednesday night and arraigned Thursday in Scarsdale, where one of the thefts occurred, on charges of enterprise corruption and grand larceny. The crimes carry prison sentences of up to 25 years. *AP*

Aussie murder trial begins

BHUBANESWAR, India—A judge on Thursday began hearing witnesses in the trial of the mob murder of an Australian missionary and his two sons in an eastern Indian state two years ago. Graham Staines, 58, and his sons, Philip, 10, and Timothy, 8, were burned alive inside the jeep where they were sleeping after a Bible study meeting in the village of Manoharpur in the eastern state of Orissa. Thakurdas Murmu, headman of Manoharpur, was questioned by a government prosecutor and cross-examined by the defense counsel in the court of District Judge Mahendranath Patnaik. Dara Singh, the main defendant, and 12 others, also accused of involvement in the murder that took place on Jan. 23, 1999, were present in the courtroom when Murmu was questioned. *AP*

Stunning spectacle in Dubai

THE DUBAI shopping festival (DSF) 2001, which started on the night of March 1 was a stunning spectacle of hi-tech audio-visual effect and dazzling pyrotechnics. One hundred twenty children, representing five continents displayed their talent in a 50-minute performance in the style of "Disney" to highlight the festival theme "One World, One Family, One Festival." This year's DSF opening ceremony was the biggest and most spectacular show in the entire Middle East. It comprised of dialogues between people of different nationalities with the first ever Arabi-English Disney-style songs and image projection system. The events were presented on the largest ever stage in the region. The opening ceremony began with a projection of giant images of the UAE's changing skyline as a symbol of the country's phenomenal progress. It was then switched to images of children building bridges of communication through a dialogue containing their wishes and vision for the future including living in a secure world that gathers all cultures under one roof. *UAE Embassy*

Asbestos exposure costly

SYDNEY—A woman who contracted cancer after washing her husband's asbestos-contaminated clothing was Friday awarded more than $198,200 in a landmark compensation payment. It was the first payment awarded by an Australian court to someone who contracted mesothelioma without having been exposed to asbestos directly through work. Winnifred Brennan, 62, contracted mesothelioma—a form of lung cancer linked to exposure to asbestos—after washing her husband's clothing and visiting him and their sons on construction sites over an 18-year period from 1966 to 1984. *AP*

Report: 20 countries cooperating with US on its anti-drug efforts

WASHINGTON—The government certified 20 of 24 countries as fully cooperating with US anti-drug efforts Thursday, including close allies Mexico and Colombia despite those two nations' continuing drug-producing and trafficking status.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, lawmakers called for overhauling the report card process that often embarrasses US allies.

Afghanistan and Burma, also known as Myanmar, continued their long-standing "decertified" status, making them subject to economic penalties that will have no real effect because the countries are under US sanctions for other reasons.

Cambodia and Haiti were decertified but received a national security waiver of economic penalties. Nigeria and Paraguay, in the same category last year as Cambodia and Haiti, moved up to fully certified.

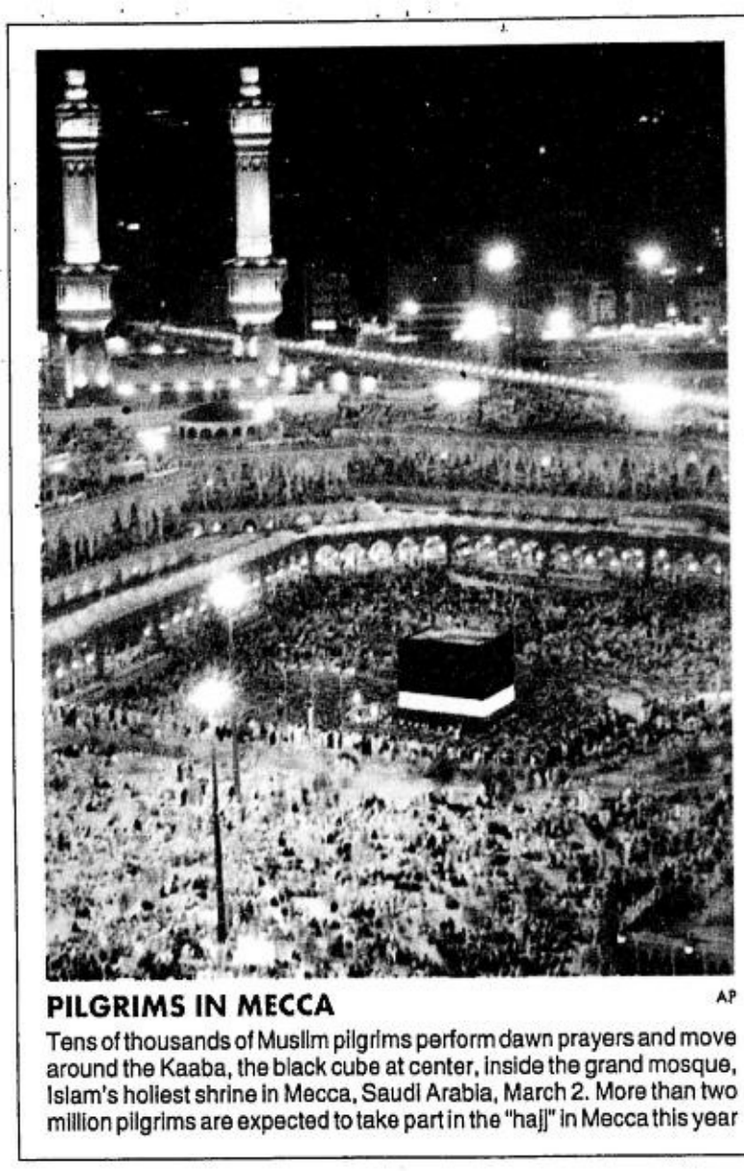
In addition to Mexico, Colombia, Nigeria and Paraguay, the other certified countries were the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Jamaica, Laos, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The certification process has been denounced in the United States by those who consider it counterproductive and by other countries embarrassed by their grades and annoyed that the world's biggest drug consumer has the gall to tell anyone else what to do.

"Certification is more than an affront to Mexico and to other countries. It is a sham that should be denounced and canceled," Mexican President Vicente Fox said last year.

President George W. Bush has endorsed a move in Congress to set aside the certification process and he told Fox during a Feb. 16 visit to Mexico that he would tout Fox's anti-drug efforts to US lawmakers.

The report did praise Mexico's aggressive eradication program, saying that effort, plus drought in its principal drug cultivation areas, resulted in record low levels of opium poppy production. *AP*



PILGRIMS IN MECCA AP

Tens of thousands of Muslim pilgrims perform dawn prayers and move around the Kaaba, the black cube at center, inside the grand mosque, Islam's holiest shrine in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, March 2. More than two million pilgrims are expected to take part in the "hajj" in Mecca this year

Afghan's Taliban rulers begin destroying statues

KABUL—Defying international outrage, Afghanistan's hardline Taliban rulers begin destroying all statues in the country, including two soaring 5th-century statues of Buddha carved into the face of a cliff.

Pakistan, one of only three nations to recognize the Taliban regime, says the action is one result of the isolation of Afghanistan by the world community.

"This may have been an act of defiance brought on by the isolation they feel," Pakistan's Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press in neighboring Pakistan.

Pakistani religious leaders, who share the Taliban's view of Islamic law, agreed.

"It is possible the action taken (to destroy the statues) is a reaction to what the West is doing to Afghanistan," said Fazle-ur Rehman, head of Pakistan's Jamiat-e-Ulema or Party of Islamic clerics in an interview.

"Hundreds of people are dying. Afghanistan has been destroyed by war and the West imposes sanctions. They don't have any respect for the people. Maybe that is why they have taken this action," he said.

The United Nations imposed sanctions against the Taliban in January to press a demand that they hand over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden. They have refused saying there is no proof of Bin Laden's involvement in terrorism.

Early Thursday the Taliban's Information Minister Qadratullah Jamal said the destruction of all statues in the country had begun in keeping with an edict issued by their supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar.

Saying images, such as pictures and statues, were idolatrous and contrary to Islam, Omar on Monday ordered all statues destroyed. The Taliban, who rule about 95 percent of Afghanistan, espouse a strict brand of Islamic law.

"All officials, including the ministry of vice and virtue, have been given the go ahead to destroy the statues," Jamal told reporters in the Afghan capital. "The destruction work will be done by any means available to them." *AP*

China opts out of key clause on unions in rights treaty

BEIJING—Confirming human rights campaigners' fears, China said Thursday that in ratifying an international rights treaty it opted out of a key clause that says workers should be allowed to form independent trade unions.

Four years after Beijing signed it, Chinese lawmakers ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on Wednesday, but did not approve the pact's labor rights clause because of "conditions in China," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue.

"Chinese law safeguards the rights of Chinese workers," Zhang said at a twice-weekly briefing for reporters. Rejecting the union clause "does not affect the various rights and interests that they enjoy in accordance with law."

China's government only allows one national trade union controlled by the ruling Communist Party. It has jailed scores of activists who tried to form or called for free trade unions or who pushed for workers' rights.

The government is also struggling to keep a lid on worker unrest. Millions of people have been laid-off and workers protests have become common during ongoing and painful reforms of ailing state-run enterprises.

While welcoming China's ratification of the pact, which also includes the right to strike, human rights groups expressed disappointment that Beijing shied away from the trade union clause. *AP*

7 foreign oil workers released in Ecuador

QUITO—Seven foreign oil workers kidnapped last October in Ecuador's petroleum-rich northeast jungle have been freed by their captors. An oil industry source said a $13-million ransom was paid.

Ecuador's defense ministry said that the four Americans, one Chilean, an Argentine and a New Zealander were released before noon Thursday and picked up by a military patrol. President Gustavo Noboa's office said the men were "in good condition."

Official news of their release was first released in Washington by Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, spokesperson for US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The kidnap victims arrived at the Quito airport in the evening and were immediately rushed to a downtown hotel under tight security.

Ecuadorean television reports said the captives were freed Thursday morning in a northeast jungle zone near Santa Rosa de Cascales, a few kilometers from Ecuador's northern border with Colombia and 145 km east of Quito.

An Ecuadorean military intelligence officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said all seven of the freed foreigners were picked up by a military patrol and taken to Lago Agrio, 180 km northeast of the capital, Quito.

He said they were treated for exhaustion, cuts and bruises. He said the men had trekked a long distance through the jungle to a prearranged rendezvous point for their release.

Channel 10 television aired an interview late Thursday with two of the victims as they were recovering at a military station outside Lago Agrio after the jungle trek.

"We were walking the entire time, day and night, rain or shine," ever since being abducted, said German Sholz of Chile, a consultant for energy giant Repsol-YPF SA. "This morning around 9 we separated (from the kidnappers) and walked along a dirt path until 12:30," he added. *AP*

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Clinton advisers say they opposed pardon of fugitive billionaire Rich

WASHINGTON—Three of former President Bill Clinton's closest advisers told a House committee they strongly opposed his pardon of fugitive billionaire Marc Rich and thought it would never happen.

White House chief of staff John Podesta, counsel Beth Nolan and senior aide Bruce Lindsey testified Thursday before the House Government Reform Committee, which is investigating whether political and other donations or payments influenced the pardon of the Rich.

"The staff informed the president that it was our view that the pardon should not be granted," Podesta said.

Ranking Democrat Henry Waxman of California directly asked all three whether there was a "quid pro quo" of donations for pardons, including $450,000 in contributions Rich's former wife, Denise Rich, has made to Clinton's presidential library project.

"No, sir," Lindsey said. "No," Podesta echoed. "No, sir," Nolan replied.

All three testified that up until just hours before midnight on Jan. 19, they thought Clinton was going to reject the multitude of appeals on behalf of Rich, who fled the United States in 1983 and has been living in Switzerland to avoid racketeering and other criminal charges.

But Podesta said Ehud Barak, Israel's then-prime minister who now heads a caretaker government, urged Rich's pardon in a farewell call he made to the outgoing president that afternoon. When Clinton met with his top aides between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. that night, it was clear that Barak's call had been "influential," Podesta said.

FORMER Finance chair for the Democratic National Committee Beth Dozoreth refused to testify to Congress about President Clinton's controversial pardon of financier Marc Rich. REUTERS

"It certainly seemed that he was not going to grant it, and then that Mr. Barak's phone call had been significant," Nolan told the committee.

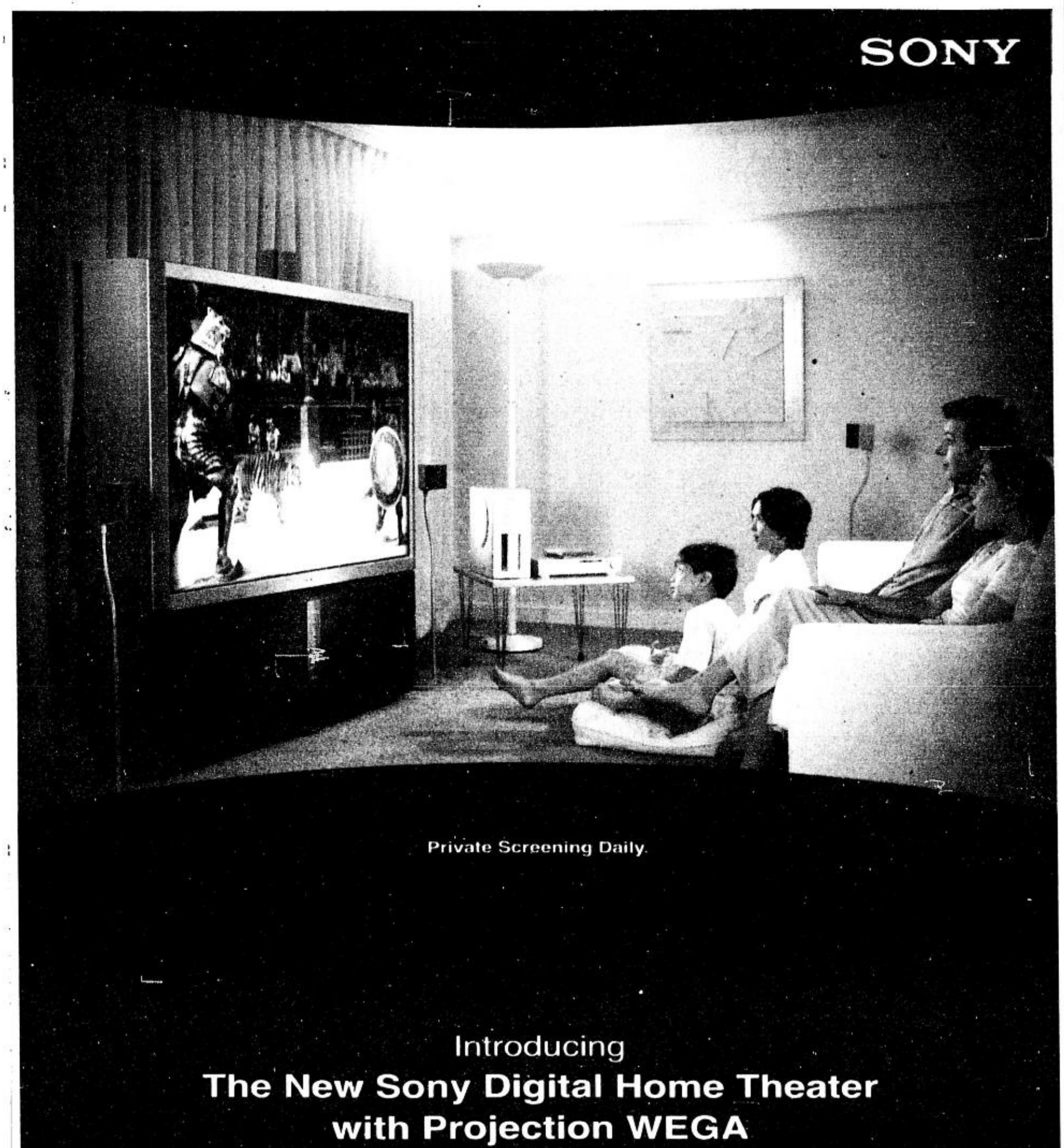
Lindsey said he was strongly opposed to the pardon because Rich was a fugitive.

"I believe he (Clinton) believed the fugitive status was a factor, but not the beginning and end of the conversation," Lindsey said. "But for me, it was the beginning and end."

Lindsey testified that he even told Clinton privately to remember that Rich's attorney, former White House Counsel Jack Quinn, was an advocate on one side of the debate and that the president shouldn't view him as still being one of his advisers.

The committee released a year-old e-mail from one of Rich's attorneys saying that prosecutors had offered to drop the racketeering charge if Rich returned to the United States.

As the more than 10-hour hearing droned on, the Democrats grilled Lewis Libby, who represented Rich as a private attorney and now works in the Bush White House as Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff. The Democrats pressed Libby to give Clinton's pardon of Rich the nod. *AP*



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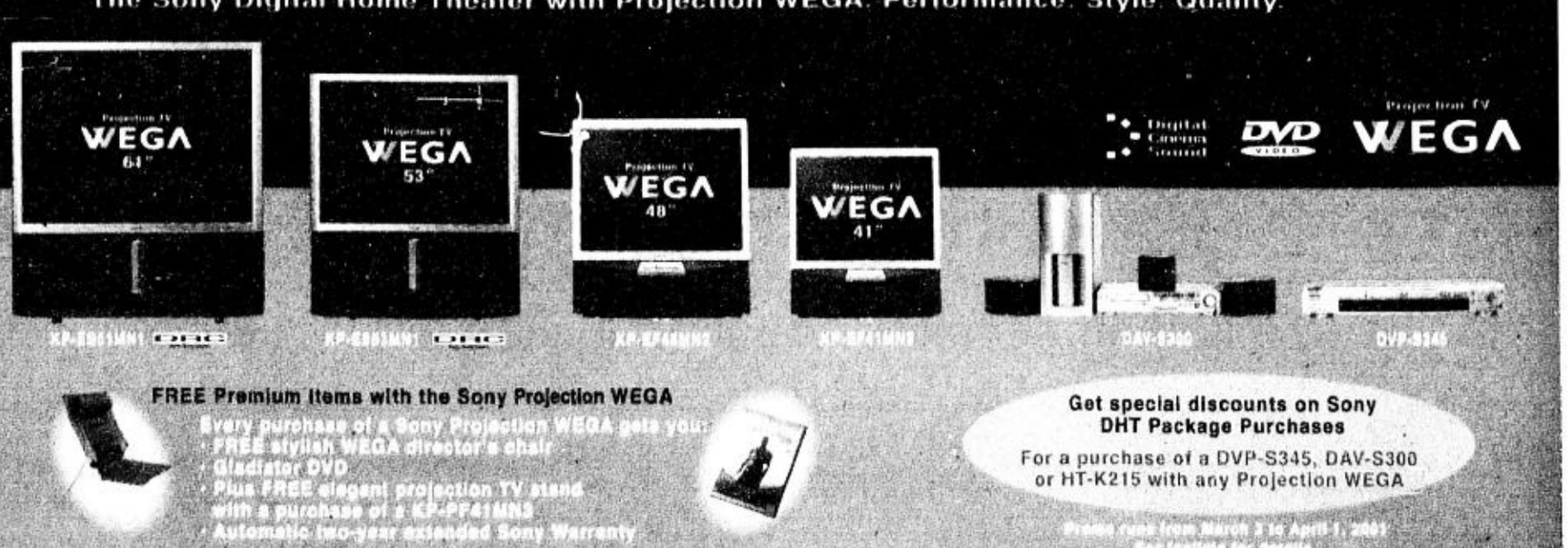

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

'Lumads' get P4M in aid

DIGOS CITY—*Lumad* communities under a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) in the municipalities of Matanao, Magsaysay and Malita were granted a P14-million assistance under the Philippine-Canada Development Fund (PCDF). Victor Cubita, provincial agrarian reform officer, said about P4 million was already released to the communities last month. Four projects would be funded by the grant which is aimed at uplifting the lives of the B'laan and Tagacaolo tribes in the CADC areas. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Abaca industry gets boost

LEGAZPI CITY—To boost the region's abaca industry, the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) last year replanted some 1,025 hectares of land in five Bicol provinces with healthy abaca. Ramon Borromeo, Fida Bicol regional director, said the planting materials came from abaca seed banks. Borromeo said 199 hectares of abaca plantations were opened in Albay, 198 in Camarines Sur, 141 hectares in Camarines Norte, 193 hectares in Catanduanes and 71 hectares in Sorsogon. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

More coco seedlings

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Coconut Authority Bicol office last year planted a total of 26,357 coconut seedlings on 2,501 hectares of land in Bicol under its planting and replanting program. PCA Bicol regional manager Pedro Endaya said the program funding came from various sources. Endaya said with the funds, the PCA was able to put up 45 nurseries with 395,052 seed nuts and maintained 58 nurseries with 146,722 seedlings. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

New Naga police chief

NAGA CITY—Supt. Eliciar Bron has taken over as the new Naga City police station chief, succeeding Supt. Frank Penaflor who is now with the Police Community Relations Office of Police Regional Office 5. The Naga City police station was judged Bicol's Best City Police Station of the Year in 1999 and in 2000. On Feb. 12, it was 2nd runner-up in the Search for Most Citizen-Friendly Police Station with a citation for the most supportive barangays and Best Police Community Relations Office. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 26° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 21°
Laoag Hi 31° Lo 24°	Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi Hi 32° Lo 26°	Bacolod Hi 33° Lo 23°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 27°
Cebu Hi 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 31° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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De Venecia admits Lakas took Nora at Joma behest

DAGUPAN CITY—Former Speaker Jose de Venecia said the administration party Lakas-NUCD is fielding actress Nora Aunor as its official candidate for governor of Camarines Sur at the behest of communist leader Jose Ma. Sison.

"Joma (Sison) called me up for the nomination of Nora (Aunor) and you know we have to recognize the major role that the Left played during People Power II," said De Venecia, who maneuvered to run unopposed in his district in Pangasinan in a bid to become Speaker again.

De Venecia said he and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. are waiting for Aunor (Nora Villamayor in real life) to personally get her certificate of nomination from Lakas officials.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo and I asked the Lakas committee to issue her a certificate of (nomination) as a Lakas official candidate," De Venecia said, adding that he already has a copy of Aunor's certificate of nomination.

Aunor is also being fielded by a major coalition led by the Aksyon Demokratiko, headed by former Sen. Raul Roco, a native of Bicol, as its official candidate.

Aunor will run against incumbent Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

De Venecia also disclosed that it was Sison, alleged founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines who is now in self-exile in The Netherlands, who convinced Aunor to dump former President Joseph Estrada and to join groups clamoring for Estrada's ouster during the People Power II protests.

"Her defection from Estrada's camp to the people's camp was one of the highlights of the People Power Revolution.

You can just imagine the psychological impact of her defection because she was very close to Estrada but she dumped him to join the people," De Venecia said.

With the Left backing her up and with the Lakas nomination, Aunor has become the "candidate of the Left, the Right and the Center," De Venecia added.

On Aunor's qualifications to become Camarines Sur governor, De Venecia said "she must have something in between her ears (because) she has been a superstar for years."

During an interview shortly after she came out to denounce Estrada, Aunor admitted that she had a relationship with Estrada but was dissatisfied with it.

Interviewed when she came out to denounce Estrada, Aunor denied she was calling for Estrada's ouster after the deposed President turned down her request to be made official administration candidate for governor of Camarines Sur. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Slow amnesty process risky for ex-rebels

MALOLOS, Bulacan—A former leader of the New People's Army in Bulacan said the government's slow processing of rebel returnees' amnesty applications is putting former rebels in danger as their names are still included in the watch list of the military and police.

Perlita Peralta, alias "Ka Perly," former secretary of the NPA's Sandatahang Pampropaganda Unit in Bulacan, said there have been delays in the submission of reports on rebel returnees who underwent tactical interrogations by the police and military.

She said their investigation showed that many amnesty applications of Bulacan rebel returnees have been piling up at the local amnesty office in Angeles City.

Unless their applications are fully processed, rebel returnees remain in the order of battle (OB) of the police and the military and are in danger of being arrested anytime, Peralta said.

"When we went to the provincial police office on Feb. 17, we found out that we are still included in the order of battle even though we have surrendered more than a year ago," she said.

She said amnesty applications of rebel returnees from the towns of Hagonoy, Paombong and Norzagaray have been affected by the slow processing of documents.

Peralta also sought the help of Gov. Josefina de la Cruz in the release of the official list of rebel returnees in Norzagaray so funds for the town's rebel returnees' multipurpose cooperative would be released. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Race for Lakas backing sows confusion

BAGUIO CITY—Who ended up running under a genuine Lakas-NUCD-UMDP ticket in Northern Luzon?

Based on the flood of candidates who registered at key Commission on Elections offices on Feb. 28, almost everyone managed to claim a Lakas endorsement despite raging debates over "rainbow coalitions" in the countryside that combined local government candidates fielded by President Macapagal-Arroyo and disgraced President Joseph Estrada.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER showed that Luzon candidates, who have been feuding over Lakas endorsements, managed to enlist this week bearing their own customized party endorsements.

Several disgruntled candidates all over Luzon had been blaming Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson for this fiasco.

Chavit lawyer

In Baguio City, lawyer Pablito Sanidad, Singson's lead counsel in the Estrada impeachment trial, enlisted as a Lakas nominee on the strength of a formal endorsement signed by Lakas national executive secretary Jose Rufino.

Sanidad is running for the Baguio congressional seat. His rival, Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Lakas regional coordinator, bore a similar Lakas endorsement when he registered his candidacy, but it was signed by other Lakas officials led by former President Fidel Ramos.

Domogan leads a "rainbow" alliance with Baguio Rep. Bernardo Vergara, a member of the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino and regional coordinator of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

It was one of the first "rainbow" alliances to be questioned by the Lakas national council, because of Singson's "meddling," Vergara said.

In Abra, Singson also chose Abra Board Member Ernesto Pacuño as Lakas candidate for governor, allegedly polarizing party officials there.

Accusations

Abra Vice Gov. Jose Bersamin lambasted Singson on Monday for manipulating Lakas and for causing "the defection of 24 (Abra) mayors from the new administration party."

"If Chavit has a hand in removing Estrada as president and if he feels that there are other areas in the country that has corruption, then I would welcome his intervention (in selecting Lakas nominees for Luzon)," Sanidad said.

In Laoag City, two Lakas officials have each claimed to be the duly authorized provincial party coordinator, after they fielded two different slates there and in Bacarra town.

Bacarra Vice Mayor Philip Velasco is running for mayor on the strength of an endorsement issued by former Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr.

But his chief rival, Judge Manuelito Cid, is also running for mayor under Lakas, based on an endorsement signed by former Ilocos Norte Rep. Simeon Valdez.

'Rainbow' alliances

Lakas standard bearers there also sustained a "rainbow" alliance with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan headed by Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. despite the absence of a party certification.

Vergara, a former Lakas official until he joined the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino in 1998, castigated Singson for blocking "powerhouse rainbow coalitions" of the Lakas and Lamp provincial candidates.

He said Lakas should consider the "winnability" of such alliances to forge a new Rainbow Congress beholden to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Lakas runs the campaign of the administration's People Power Coalition.

The so-called rainbow formula was applied with great success in 1992 by former Speaker Jose de Venecia. Vergara was one of the rainbow coalition's original lieutenants.

Marcos apparently banked on this logic when he proclaimed a Lakas-KBL alliance in a Feb. 7 briefing.

The union did not officially materialize on Feb. 28, although Lakas officials still run under a KBL slate or are endorsed by the Marcos party.

Tandems

Provincial Board Member Windell Chua of Lakas is Marcos' running mate for the gubernatorial race, against fellow party mate, incumbent Vice Gov. Mariano Nalupta Jr.

"As far as I know, Governor Marcos and I will be adopted by Lakas . . . The coalition did not formally push through, but you know that in any political exercise there are political maneuverings," Chua told the INQUIRER.

But assertions of "rainbow alliances" had been disruptive for Lakas.

Since Wednesday afternoon, Comelec officials have been weighing multiple endorsements from Lakas to determine if many are actually fake.

Lawyer Noli Pipo, Ilocos Norte elections supervisor, asked the Lakas national executive committee this week to address the dual claims sent out by Ablan and Valdez.

Ablan, who is running again for a seat in Congress, questioned the authenticity of Valdez's endorsements in a letter to Comelec. He stressed that Vice President Teofisto Guingona, currently Lakas president, gave him "sole authority to sign and nominate (Lakas) candidates for the first district" on Feb. 22.

Confusion

But Valdez also bears a Lakas document which certifies him as an equal in coordinating provincial party decisions.

"I was verbally informed by Apo Roque Ablan that the arrangement is (for) him (to) exclusively nominate party candidates in the first district, (while) Apo Simeon Valdez (can nominate for) the second district," Pipo said.

The Baguio case was even more confusing.

Lakas endorsements for a Domogan-Vergara slate were prepared as early as Monday evening despite a Lakas prohibition on a Lakas-Lamp coalition, Noli Balatero, Vergara's chief legislative staffer, told the INQUIRER.

But the documents sent to Baguio on that day bore serious errors: It endorsed Vergara, a third-term congressman, to the same post, while it endorsed Domogan to run again for mayor, Balatero said. *Vincent Cabreza, Kira Espino, Desiree Caluza, and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Indirect campaign ground to disqualify bets

DIGOS CITY—"Indirect campaign" by politicians could be a ground for disqualification, the city election officer said yesterday.

An indirect campaign includes the posting of calendars in public places by politicians even if these do not specifically mention he is running for a certain position. The fact that these materials conspicuously display the name of a candidate could already be construed as an act of indirect campaigning.

Francisca Martin, election officer, clarified that a complaint against a politician violating elections law particularly during the campaign period has to be filed before her office can institute any action.

"Indirect campaigning by politicians could only be addressed if there is a complaint," she said.

Another form of indirect campaign is the constant mention of a politician's name in blocktime programs paid for by local government units they belong to.

"We will also look into that," she said.

Martin also warned politicians not to distribute or post campaign paraphernalia before March 30, the specified campaign period for local candidates, as this is enough ground for disqualification.

As this developed, Martin said the designation of official poster areas in the city is yet to be finalized after discussions with politicians on March 10.

"We will tightly monitor violation of designated poster areas. If there is a violation, we will call the attention of that certain politician and have him remove his campaign material outside of the designated areas," Martin said.

She said citizens could also help by being vigilant as the Comelec could not possibly monitor all the violations because of lack of personnel.

"In fact there are calls from people even now, who feel that the number of posted campaign materials by national candidates are already too much," Martin said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Rains good luck sign for reelectionist gov

COTABATO CITY—Gov. Emmanuel Piñol expressed optimism he would emerge victorious in his reelection bid when rain fell during the filing of his candidacy on Feb. 28.

"Every time I file my candidacy, it rains and after every election I win," said Piñol, a former journalist who accidentally joined politics to substitute his ailing father, Bernardo Sr., who died a few days after his son won the 1995 mayoral race in M'lang, North Cotabato.

In 1998, Piñol, a political neophyte, ran against the more experienced politician-lawyer Rep. Gregorio Andolana, but was surprised to taste his first political defeat in a one-on-one fight for the governorship.

"I remember, we were having El Niño (dry-spell), but it rained when I filed my certificate of candidacy," Piñol recalled.

Supporters of ex-Rep. Anthony Dequiña, Piñol's lone rival, said they have mapped out strategies to break the jinx.

"This time we will work to change the momentum in favor of the former congressman," a Midsayap barangay official said.

However, Piñol, upon seeing the rain on Wednesday said it was providential as he led a motorcade at the national highway that went through Kidapawan City and back to the provincial capitol in Barangay Amas in rain-soaked clothes.

He was with other candidates when they met with election personnel led by provincial election supervisor Jose Jalandoni.

"The rains are signs of good things to come for our people," Piñol said of his previous political luck.

He said it will be the policy of Lihok Cotabato to only support senatorial bets willing to sign a covenant with the organizers expressing willingness to finance identified projects for community development.

"If national political parties used to dictate and control us on who shall we elect for senators, now with Lihok Cotabato, it will be us who will call the shots and put an end to the bad habit of imperial Manila," Piñol said.

North Cotabato has 544 barangays and some 416,657 registered voters, Comelec records show. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PDP-Laban, LDP join forces in Laguna town

THE PARTIES PDP-Laban and Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino have joined forces in San Pedro, Laguna, a first in the town.

Ben Rip-Rip Rafanan, head of the local LDP, coalesced with the forces of vice mayoral candidate Ray Junia, the head of the PDP-Laban in the town.

In a statement, Rafanan was quoted as saying he is going against big names in politics in the town who have been the dominant forces there for decades—the Nationalist People's Coalition, Reporma and Lakas.

Rafanan and Junia come from two village groups in the town that comprise about 75 percent of the population of San Pedro.

Rafanan and Junia said in a statement that they would introduce new politics in the town and campaign for better public services, environment, peace and order and more jobs.

They also vowed to protect the town's natural waterways from what they called were "rivernappers," or individuals or firms that have encroached into the town's rivers and waterways.

PUERTO TEAM PHOTO FROM HAGEDORN OFFICE

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn finalizes his bid to become governor of Palawan at the province's Comelec office where he filed his certificate of candidacy. Running with Hagedorn are Abraham Mitra, for congressman and Lucilo Bayron for vice mayor of Puerto Princesa.

Fire greets start of anti-fire month

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A 40-minute fire greeted the start of Fire Prevention Month here on Thursday, rendering 12 families homeless and two people injured.

City Fire Marshall Artemio Tabarranza said the fire destroyed seven houses along T. Claudio Street, this city.

Injured were Jarole Deloria, 37, and Vida Kyna Rosete, 12, Grade 6 pupil of the Sacred Heart School.

Deloria suffered minor burns in her back when she tried to save documents, like her children's birth certificates, inside her burning house.

Rosete was sideswiped by a fire truck at the corner of M.H. del Pilar and T. Claudio Streets. A fireman immediately brought her to the St. Paul's Hospital here.

Witnesses told fire investigators that they heard a loud explosion, believed to have originated from a gas tank, before the fire broke out inside the house of Alejandra Deloria at about 2:05 p.m. on Thursday.

The fire then quickly spread to nearby houses, which were also made of light materials.

Tabarranza identified the fire victims as the families of Alejandra Deloria, Orlando Deloria, Bernardo Deloria, Francisca Homeres, Epifania Raadred, Eduardo Gabon, Cordia Agustin, Conrado Cebu, Lydia Che, Boleria Aniano, Norberto Cebu and Mesias Sias.

Earlier that day, the Bureau of Fire Protection here held a motorcade around the city to kick off Fire Prevention Month with the theme "Pambansang Kamalayan Laban sa Sunog Tugon sa Magandang Kinabukasan."

Taiwan-based OFW comes home dead after 'falling from bed'

BY NESTOR BURGOS
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Another Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) came home on Thursday in a casket, five months after leaving his home here to work in Taiwan.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in Western Visayas said Melvin Montaño, 30, died on Jan. 10 based on a death certificate issued by the Kaohsung Prosecutor's Office for Local District Country in Taiwan.

In a report, Taiwanese medical examiner Hsiu-Ling Yiu said Montaño died of *subarachnoid hemorrhagen* (internal bleeding in the head) after he reportedly fell from his bed.

Montaño's remains arrived here at 10:30 a.m. from Manila where it stayed overnight after being shipped from Taiwan. It was brought by his relatives to his hometown in Barangay Buga, Leon town, 30 kilometers south of here.

Montaño worked in a factory of the Ting Tsai Precision Co. based in Kaohsung County. A son of a farmer and a housewife, he earned his Marine Engineering degree from the John Lacson Colleges Foundation here in 1996.

James Mendiola of the Owwa regional office said they knew of the OFW's death only after Montaño's family asked for the agency's assistance after they received reports of Montaño's death.

The Owwa sent two request letters to Taiwan to confirm the reports—one on Jan. 22 and another a week after. It was, however, confirmed only this month.

Montaño is the ninth OFW to come home here dead this year, Owwa records showed.

Last month, five seamen died when their ship sank in Japan. They were identified as Crispin Gelligani, 53; Henry Guiñez, 42; Rodolfo Trono, 35; Juanillo Bagcol, 47; and Jose Rolly Lacupa, 35.

Three other Ilonggo OFWs working in the Middle East died of cardiac arrest. They were identified as Salome Sabillon, a worker in Bahrain; Antonio Rey Tolentino, who work in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Lino Antone Lasconia in Brunei.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration here processed 7,581 OFWs in the region last year, slightly higher than the 7,555 recorded in 1999.

The government has proclaimed OFWs as the country's new heroes because of the billions of dollars that they remit and which help prevent the economy from collapsing.

But groups of OFWs denounced the lousy treatment they get from government, accusing officials of double talk.

Relatives of OFWs complain of slow action on the part of foreign affairs and labor officials on cases of Filipino workers who die mysteriously abroad.

Gov't losing ₱500,000 daily to quarry scam

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The national government has been losing P500,000 daily since October last year due to unabated illegal quarrying and rampant use of recycled and fake receipts in Pampanga, an environment official said Wednesday.

In Mexico town alone, the national government has lost P6.3 million in the last three weeks from illegal quarrying, according to Carlos Alejandrino, operations manager of the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), an agency under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The DENR, through the NRDC, has taken over the management of the quarry industry from the provincial governments of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales since February 1999 on the strength of Proclamation 66 signed by deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Bienvenido Tumale, manager of the NRDC lahar project in Central Luzon, confirmed that the agency had lost money from irregularities. He said the income lost from the use of recycled receipts alone amounted to P100,000 daily.

But Tumale said more funds might have been lost to the government during the height of People Power II in January.

"Many checkers took advantage of the situation. Amid the confusion, in the certainty that the officials would be replaced and they would also lose their jobs, many allowed the irregularities to happen so they can make quick cash from *kotong* (extortion)," Tumale said in Filipino.

Records showed that 113,560 hectares of land are being quarried in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales. Pampanga, with 62,400 hectares, is the biggest province hosting quarry operations.

Alejandrino said he made the disclosures because he was disappointed over the inaction of the NRDC central and regional offices to stop the irregularities and corruption at the agency.

"The NRDC reported collecting P7.856 million last year from 523,756 truckloads of sand in Pampanga and Tarlac. The agency could have earned double or triple that amount had more officials and more checkers been vigilant during the time of (Environment) Secretary (Antonio) Cerilles," Alejandrino said.

The NRDC national office had fired and replaced at least 28 quarry checkers, although acting Environment Secretary Joemari Gerochi, in a Jan. 30 memorandum, suspended the hiring of new personnel even in DENR attached agencies like the NRDC, Alejandrino said.

"They fired those who are fighting the thieves," he said. "I want to reveal the anomalies and the corruption at the NRDC before I go."

Tumale, he said, had told him to also leave the agency.

Tumale clarified he urged Alejandrino to resign because of "inefficiency." He said it was the central office that fired the 28 personnel and hired their replacements.

Alejandrino showed the INQUIRER several folders of memoranda and incident reports pertaining to the irregularities he had monitored and verified since Oct. 5, the day he assumed his post.

Sand was being dredged and hauled out of Pampanga without the necessary permits from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR, he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Wanted American parolee nabbed

ILOILO CITY—An American child molester, who is wanted in the United States, was arrested by the police while undergoing treatment in a hospital here.

Melvin Edward Mcgowan Sr., 58, was confined at Room 315 of the Iloilo Doctor's Hospital for a heart ailment when three members of the Antique police led by Senior Insp. Serafin Monteclaro II arrested him without a warrant on Wednesday.

The warrantless arrest, said Monteclaro, was with permission from the International Police through the Police Regional Intelligence Division based in Camp Delgado, this city.

He said nurses had to be called because Mcgowan's blood pressure shot up when he saw the uniformed policemen.

The Antique police later explained to Mcgowan that he was under arrest because of his status as a parolee at large. The American could barely speak, he added.

Mcgowan was turned over to the Bureau of Immigration (BI) shortly after he was discharged from the hospital yesterday at about 2 p.m.

The BI would bring him to Manila where he would undergo deportation proceedings. The BI in Iloilo City already informed the Department of Justice of Mcgowan's arrest.

The Sex Offender Information Bulletin of the California DOJ dated April 2000 said Mcgowan is a child molester who was convicted in Solano County, California in 1995 on two counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14 years old.

Mcgowan violated his parole on March 16, 2000 and was returned to jail. He was "inadvertently released from jail" on April 5 last year and is currently wanted as a parolee at large, the bulletin said.

The bulletin said Mcgowan occasionally used a wheelchair due to back and leg pains.

The US DOJ gave a lead to the Police Regional Office in Western Visayas that Mcgowan was residing in Barangay Intao, Laua-an town, Antique with his wife Sally Necor, a native of that place.

Monteclaro said they proceeded to Laua-an on Feb. 26 but were told by the Laua-an police that Mcgowan was already confined at the IDH. ***Hazel Villa with a report from Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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'Tis the season to tax candidates

NPAs hike 'access fees' in rebel territory

BY CYNTHIA BORGUETA
Catarman, Northern Samar

CANDIDATES have a lot to worry about as election time nears—funds, cheating, election fraud.

As if these "challenges" are not enough, candidates campaigning in troubled areas also have deal with revolutionary taxes, or "access fees" that a candidate is required when campaigning in areas held by communist rebels.

The INQUIRER learned that the amount of access fees required of candidates campaigning in an area in Samar controlled by the New People's Army has dramatically increased since the 1998 elections, depending on what position a candidate is running for.

For the May 14 elections, the INQUIRER learned from reliable sources that the NPA would charge a candidate running for a congressional seat from P500,000 to P1 million if he wants to freely campaign in a rebel "area of command."

Those running for governor are charged less—from P200,000 to 450,000; mayor, P50,000 to P75,000; vice mayor, P25,000 to P45,000 and councilor, P15,000 to P20,000.

A candidate in a remote town of Samar laments that paying access fees has become a "fact of life" for most candidates on the island.

The source said it was better in 1998 because then they could bargain with rebel leaders to reduce the access fee.

Pay up or else

Another source said this time, there is only one option—pay up or don't campaign at all in a rebel area.

"The NPA's required access fee then was affordable that candidate(s) could even bargain for a smaller amount if they could not afford the (quoted) amount as (a) 'gatepass' to campaign in their (rebels') areas of command," the source, a reelectionist, said.

The required access fee then for candidates who were running for a congressional seat was only P200,000; P100,000 for gubernatorial candidates; P20,000 for mayoral candidates; P10,000 for those running for vice mayors; and P5,000 for candidates for a municipal or city council seat.

Another reelectionist mayor in one of the municipalities of Northern Samar, who also did not want to be named, complained that NPA leaders who are operating in his area have already sent him a letter demanding an access fee of P50,000.

The mayor said he was told that the amount must be given before the campaign period for local candidates starts. He said he did not know yet as to how or to whom he should give the money. The demand letter, he said, was left in his office in the town hall.

The mayor said in the 1998 elections, he was required by the rebels to pay P30,000. But the rebels, he said, did not complain when he was only able to produce P20,000.

The access fee enabled him to campaign unharmed in his town's hinterland villages.

Would he pay the access fee this time?

The mayor took a long pause, and said: "It is becoming expensive, but I guess I have no choice but to give."

At least seven of the 26 villages in this mayor's town are considered influenced by rebels. This information, without naming the town, was affirmed by a ranking Army commander based in a capital town in Samar.

For many of these candidates, paying the access fee is the only way that they can reach "dangerous" areas they want to visit.

Most of the candidates are already in government, being reelectionists. But they would not want to inform the military or the police that they have been asked to pay or have paid revolutionary taxes.

These candidates, the sources revealed, would not gain anything by calling on the police or the military because it can only endanger their lives.

But the military is aware of the rebel practice.

An Army official in Bohol province, another area where rebels claim to have gained a foothold, urged the candidates to refuse rebel demands for access fees.

"I hope they won't give money (to the rebels) if they really want us to achieve peace here in Bohol)," said Col. Eusebio Ramos, 801st Infantry Battalion commanding officer.

He told the INQUIRER that the candidates should not give in to the rebels' demands because this would only help the guerrillas.

"We will patrol the hinterlands so that the candidates will not be harassed while they are campaigning," Ramos added.

He said the demands are made first to those who are perceived to be afraid of the rebels.

"Don't worry, we will intensify our patrols," Ramos said, addressing himself to candidates.

Ramos issued the call after the soldiers got hold of documents that mapped out the rebels' policies on the coming elections, including collecting access fees.

The documents were recovered during a raid on a New People's Army camp in Anda town last week, which left two suspected rebels killed.

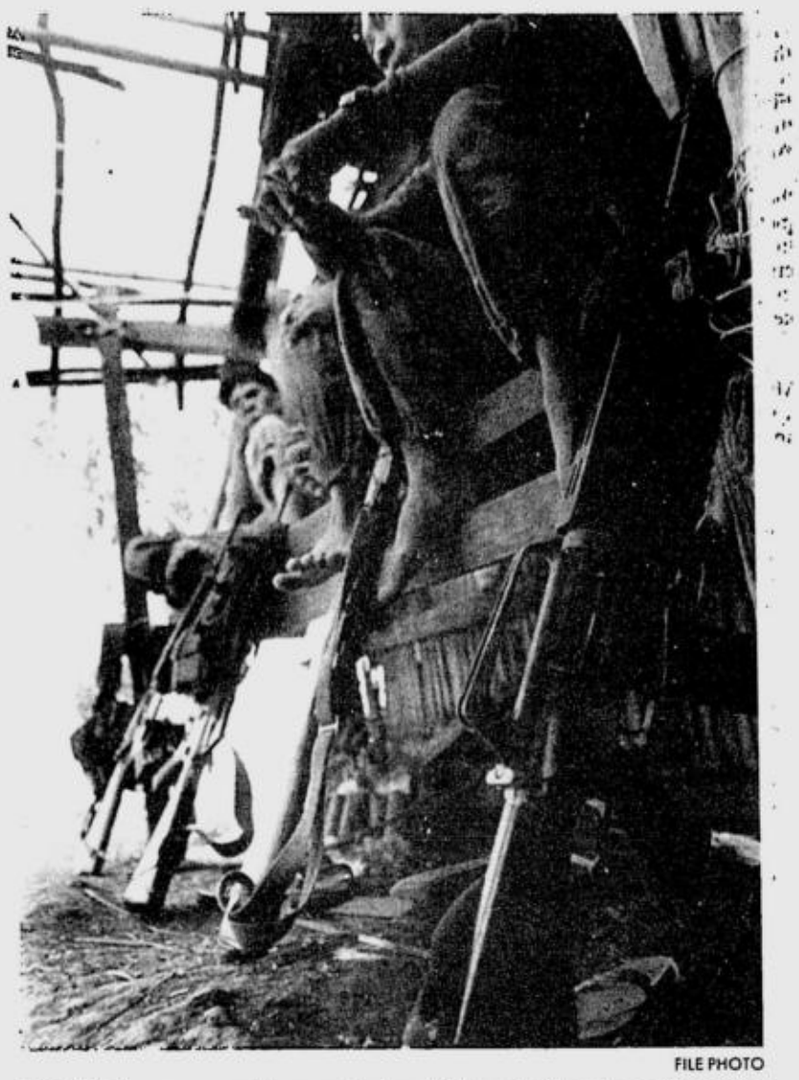
The policies governed the communist group's Central Visayas Regional Party Committee (CVRPC) Front 4 but military officials believed that these were being enforced nationwide.

Guerrillas are active in central, northern and southeastern Bohol.

They are also building fronts in the southern and northern parts of Cebu.

Ramos said the rebels have also resorted to demanding two Armalite rifles or P100,000 from some candidates.

Political parties at the town level were asked to give at least an Armalite rifle, a short firearm with ammunition and battle uniforms. *With a report from Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*



FILE PHOTO

POWER, it was once said, emanates from the barrel of the gun and the power to tax emanates from the firepower still at the disposal of communist rebels.

'A chance, not charity' for the handicapped

BY JOSELITO COSTAS
Cebu City

HERE'S a list of some of the world-class products that are assembled in Cebu—Timex and Benetton watch straps, liquid crystal displays for watches, harnesses for sensors, beamers, car radio speakers and automatic seat controls for Ford Explorer and Ranger pickups.

It's not their being assembled in Cebu that makes the products striking. They are the products of handicapped Cebuanos at the Goodwill Rehabilitation and Training Center in Barangay Castuntingan, Mandaue.

The persons with disabilities were trained and employed under the supervision of the Goodwill Industries of Cebu, Inc.

Goodwill Inc. started in 1902 in Boston, Massachusetts when Dr. Edgar Helms, a minister from Iowa, thought of helping people in need realize their full potentials through new skills, self-respect and economic independence.

In 1982, the group came to Cebu and put up its first venture: A thrift shop for low-income earners. By 1984, it was accepting subcontracting jobs from San Miguel Corp., National Semi-conductors and other smaller companies from a rented house in Cebu City. A fire forced the plant to move to a house close by. At about the same time, the 16-man core group of volunteers broke ground for a 1,150 square-meter lot where the training center now stands.

It has come a long way since then, doing all sorts of job subcontracting, from basket making to local jewelry manufacturing. "At one point, we were selling horse manure just to support our programs," says Norma Borromeo, president and chief executive officer.

The center now employs 194 handicapped trainees, doing assembly work for Lear Philippines, Inc. and Timex Philippines, two companies at the Mactan Export Processing Zone, and 31 able-bodied individuals who oversee handling, quality control and LCD polarizing.

Opportunities

Borromeo says five percent are handicapped in any given population. The GICI's philosophy is grounded on every individual's right to define and pursue fulfillment in life. But integrating PWDs into the mainstream through employment give them opportunities not typically available to them.

"The rate of employment for able-bodied professionals is so low. How much more for the handicapped," Borromeo says.

"With my disability, I thought I was not worth anything," says 32-year-old assembly worker Teresita Zabala, a polio victim.

She thought she would spend all her life as a *yaya* in an orphanage. She met a government social worker who referred her to the training center in 1992.

PHOTO BY JOSELITO COSTAS

ENRIQUE Suralta, a deaf-mute, finds not only a job at the GICI, but also independence.

In 1995 she met her husband Ramil at the plant.

"There is still hope," says Ramil, also a polio victim, a 29-year-old former car wash boy who picked up the bottle at 16 and couldn't remember his family then eating three meals a day.

Ramil and Teresita got married in 1998 and are one of the eight happily married couples with disabilities (including a mute couple) that met at Goodwill.

Both are supporting their parents and are very proud of their year-old son, Miljohn. A savings account will see him through college.

"We have so many plans for him," said the couple.

Polio-stricken, including in his left arm, since birth, 32-year-old Danilo Tumakay conquered self-pity when he left his aunts in Kawit, Medellin to work in the city. Confined to a wheelchair, he earns P1,000-2,000 a week assembling 5,000 Timex watches display and tag price casings daily.

"I can already support my family," he grins. Tumakay has a seven-year-old son from his wife who works in a local laundry.

For a few workers, however, work satisfaction is best left unsaid.

Twenty-nine-year-old deaf-mute Enrique Suralta, one of the 19 hearing-impaired trainees, sits quietly in front of the vacuum-forming tray. He deftly die-casts spare parts for watches and smiled when he saw me. His face was a picture of enviable satisfaction rare in salaried and cellular phone-toting mainstream workers. He lives in the city's section of Mabolo with his deaf-mute wife.

Overcoming barriers

The GICI has already integrated some of its trainees into the community, farming them out to restaurants, hotels and shipping companies.

Borromeo expects the number of trainees to double this year once the new building opens in April. The German agency Misereor partly funded the expansion.

"To qualify as a trainee, one has to be less than 28 years old, at least elementary or high school graduate and financially hard up," says in-house social worker Annie Alforque.

True to its mission of helping the handicapped overcome barriers, Alforque says, the center embraces a holistic rehabilitation program. Aside from regular retreats, training and annual picnics, they have a cooperative-managed canteen and an in-house insurance plan. A housing project and a school for their children are underway.

"A chance, not a charity," founder Dr. Helms said in 1902, referring to Goodwill's challenge of making the handicapped independent.

Almost a hundred years later, his words still resonate. This time, through Teresita Zabala.

"We're taking chances. Who's going to help us anyway?"

Silencers

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

WAS jueteng money used to bury the two Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) cases in Cebu?

Jimmy Policarpio, ousted President Joseph Estrada's "cleaner," was a central figure in the settlement of a beating case filed by a taxi driver against three American sailors last year.

No less than Marcelo Batestil, the victim, identified Policarpio as the one who handed him P500,000 two days before the March 30, 2000 arraignment of the servicemen.

In an exclusive story by Cebu Daily News reporter Tonton Antogop, Batestil revealed that the payoff took place in a posh Beverly Hills residence here.

Policarpio, Estrada's presidential-legislative liaison officer, also made Batestil's lawyer Gerardo Carillo P200,000 richer.

The Americans walked away when then city prosecutor, now deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro, convinced the judge to throw the charges out of the window. Batestil, Miro said, accepted the Americans' open court apology.

(The sailors apologized for beating the hell out of Batestil but later pleaded not guilty to physical injury charges.)

But Batestil later claimed he was unaware of what was going on. While he had "forgiven" the sailors, he said it was never his intention to drop the charges. Even a smart-ass, street-wise cabbie like him would find courtroom formalities and lawyers' antics befuddling.

Batestil's lawyer? He acted as expected: He shut up.

Where did Policarpio get the cold cash? Unless COA rules have been revised to allow court bribes, the money couldn't have come from the public vaults.

"The Ledger" said Policarpio allegedly withdrew P2.5 million a month from Chavit Singson's jueteng collections. A part of the amount was used to pay off media critics, so why not pay off a taxi driver who could have caused a major international furor?

Estrada himself showed special interest in the Batestil incident, which would have been the first test of his government's resolve to implement the VFA. After coddling Mark Jimenez, Estrada didn't want to further provoke the US government by sending three of its nationals to jail.

He sent Policarpio to clean up the mess.

Policarpio, meanwhile, banked on his local contacts, former Ateneo law schoolmates and Aquila Legis fraternity brothers.

Batestil identified lawyer Edgar Gica as among those present in the Beverly Hills house, which later turned out to be owned by Gica's law firm partner, Mariano Tan. Both Tan and Gica are Policarpio's fraternity brothers.

Gica and Tan are being investigated by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) based on the CDN reports.

Both denied any knowledge of the money deal, but refused to place their denials under oath.

Lawyer Gica, however, was linked to the other VFA case—the Toledo City explosion that killed two boys and injured another on Aug. 19, 2000.

The victims were scavenging for shells in the Atlas Mines firing range when they stumbled on and played with a grenade. We all know what happened next.

A P1.5 million payoff aborted the criminal complaints against the respondents, American and Filipino Navy commandos who held secret war games at the firing range.

A personal account: Crossing the line

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

ILOILO Gov. Arthur Defensor has stopped the compulsory strip search of women journalists at the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center (provincial jail).

He said jail guards would escort women reporters while inside the premises.

The order came last Monday, two days after I was subjected to a strip search. I visited the IRC at around 1:30 p.m. Feb. 23 to interview Reynaldo Bocala, the jail's lone political prisoner staging a hunger strike. I showed them my press cards and went through security check—bags and wallets being checked and my mobile phone being left with the guard.

In the lobby, I was told to turn left into a nearly one meter-by-one meter cubicle.

I thought I would be frisked (body search) but was told to pull down my underwear (panty and bras) under the eyes of a woman jail guard.

I was shocked and I protested. I told the guard to just frisk me but she said I have to comply with security regulations.

I stepped out of the cubicle and told the jail guards that I don't agree to a strip search but they insisted that it is their policy and I must comply with it. This, even as I showed them my press cards.

I thought of walking away without a story. I was enraged. On the second thought, I went back and told the woman jail guard that while I follow her order I am protesting against it. I said it was the first time in my several visits to the jail that I was strip searched, and I am going to write about it.

Humiliating procedure

The process was humiliating. I was told to pull down my denim slacks, then my underwear and assume a squatting position for a few seconds. With that done, I was asked to raise my blouse and unfasten my bras.

The procedure, I later learned, was meant to prevent the smuggling of illegal drugs and weapons through woman visitors in the jail. What is chilling is that women visitors are viewed as potential criminals.

I did not go there to socialize with Bocala but to get updates on the hunger strike. Bocala was a political prisoner. He was not detained for drug cases. I did not misrepresent myself.

I left the jail at around 2 p.m. to beat my 2:30 p.m. deadline. Then I wrote a letter to Governor Defensor asking him to explain the provincial government's policy on media interviews with prisoners.

I told him that I felt that I was denied the basic courtesy afforded to media persons during newsgathering. I am not asking for special treatment, only that women journalists not be subjected to indignities.

After I came out in public to complain about the strip search policy, several women also went on air on radio stations to complain. Some of them were my friends who suddenly found the courage to speak.

I'm no one's adjunct

Last Monday the governor called me to his office and promised to look into my complaint. But he said that things would have been easier at the jail if I told the jail guards that I am the wife of the community affairs officer of the province and that I know the governor. Does he think I am his appendage and an adjunct of my husband?

The Iloilo Press Club and the NUJP branch issued a statement demanding a thorough investigation of the incident and a review of the strip search policy.

The investigation has yet to start.

I don't know if I had overstepped the bounds of journalism by becoming an activist. I am not comfortable being a subject of news stories. However, as a community journalist, I feel that I should not only expose it but also campaign to end it. The line between journalism and activism must be crossed.

Not a few colleagues in media say the issue has died down after the governor said women journalists are not to be subjected to strip search anymore.

Gender issue

But it remains to be an issue, a gender issue, because this crude and humiliating procedure continues.

The hard part was retelling the incident to colleagues and friends. The trauma comes back and I could hardly sleep at night. But harder still was explaining it to my seven-year-old son who was surprised to see me on TV and hear about me on radio. I fought back my tears when he said: "My *nanay* is a brave woman."

Different folks, different strokes

(From page A1)

Couples for Christ, Bigkis Pinoy, the Makati Business Club, Barangay RJ and the Jesus is Lord Movement.

Crucial

Apart from these, there were individuals whose influence was crucial to the success of the struggle, namely former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Jaime Cardinal Sin and then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The visible military groups included the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Officers (Forces). But there were many more in the chain of command who chose to keep a low profile.

Of course, there were groups who called for both Estrada's and Ms Macapagal's resignation coupled with a snap election. The most vociferous among them was the Sanlakas-BMP group headed by the late Popoy Lagman.

These groups eventually distanced themselves from the others due to their "Resign All" stance, which threatened the fragile united front and which, many of us thought, stood to benefit none other than Estrada.

Getting along

To say that it was not easy for all these groups to come together is an understatement.

We had various organizational, political and ideological differences. Many of our groups were wary of each other, and accusations, direct or implied, of one-upmanship and misrepresentation were common.

It was interesting how we at Bayan learned to adjust ourselves just for the sake of maintaining that united front against Estrada.

In one press conference to announce an Oct. 18 Ayala rally, I found myself side by side with Alex Aguilar of the TUCP (a rival of Bayan-affiliated KMU) and Commodore Domingo Calajate of the RAM.

Like myself, they were clueless about the press conference since we were all invited by Boy Saycon of Copa just for a "small meeting" at former Rep. Peping Cojuangco's residence at Dasmariñas Village. But lo and behold, a horde of reporters, photographers and TV cameramen were there when I arrived.

I also remember an instance when Sen. Jun Magsaysay called me and KMU chairperson Crispin Beltran to the stage at an Ayala rally just to shake hands with Gen. Edgardo Abenina and Calajate of RAM.

Or the preparations for the Nov. 14 People's Strike, with the contending political blocs refusing to join and instead choosing either Ayala, Welcome Rotonda or Liwasang Bonifacio for their separate rallies.

Launching an open and active campaign to remove an elected and admittedly popular president was not an easy decision, not even for the militants at Bayan.

We were chided for being quixotic. There were many within our ranks who doubted the political wisdom of sounding what they thought was a premature call. Others were afraid of the possible backlash and counter-attacks from the government. Sure, Estrada was progressively becoming exposed and isolated, but the President was still the President.

To my mind, the first group to publicly call for Estrada's resignation was the women's group Gabriela. This was as early as the "Manindigan para sa Demokrasya" rally at Ayala Avenue on Aug. 20, 1999.

Despite pleas from rally organizers, including Cory Aquino, not to make the rally an anti-Estrada affair, the Gabriela women came with their banners and placards slamming the President.

Moreover, the Bayan 20,000-strong contingent was even prevented from marching closer to the stage for fear that they would vent and highlight their militant calls.

Church people

The next sector to call for Estrada's removal from office was comprised of church people under the Church Against Rising Tyranny (CHRIST) and Promotion for Church People's Response (PCPR), who joined the nationwide "Never Again" protests on Sept. 21, 1999.

They were followed by the youth and student groups, the human rights organizations, then the peasant associations under the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), whose main slogan "Oust Erap" was featured in the front-page photo of the INQUIRER on Jan. 23, 2000.

These calls for Estrada's ouster, made mainly by the poor in rallies and demonstrations, reflected how, despite his popularity with the masses, the then President had managed to antagonize, one by one, every class and sector that had once supported his presidency.

Scandal after scandal

Scandal after scandal broke out involving the President, his families and cronies. These served to agitate the middle and upper sections of society, including the otherwise politically passive business sector, against Estrada.

By February 2000, a broad range of classes and sectors, most of them marginalized and oppressed, had had enough. Erap's popularity was in the pits.

It was during last year's commemoration of the anniversary of the 1986 Edsa uprising that Bayan came out publicly with the slogan "Oust the US-Estrada regime." For its part, the Sept. 21 Committee cried, "Enough is Enough, Enough of Erap."

Allies in the parliamentary opposition and in big business said they agreed wholeheartedly with us, but chose to stay on the sidelines, saying they were not ready to confront Estrada.

"You go ahead, you guys are used to that kind of thing," was to be a common response. Any talk of impeachment was dismissed as "*suntok sa buwan* (a shot at the moon)."

But in a few weeks, the middle classes had found their voice through the ingenious "exclamation point" stickers of the Silent Protest Movement.

Bilateral talks

On April 3, Guingona, then the Senate minority floor leader, called for Estrada's resignation. That night, in a hastily called meeting, we met with several leaders of the "social democratic" bloc, the first in a series of bilateral talks with various political forces meant to forge an anti-Estrada front even broader than the existing Sept. 21 Committee.

By April, things were moving quickly and Estrada's popularity was taking an even worse beating.

But by May, reports on the severe fighting in Mindanao would hog the media. For a while, the regime's "wag the dog" scenario seemed to be working. Estrada was being projected as a strong, decisive leader who was saving the country from Moro terrorists, bandits and secessionist groups. Many did not want to criticize Estrada for fear of being branded as destabilizers or sympathizers of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

We at Bayan felt the need to expose these squid tactics. We were particularly concerned that Estrada's popularity was being propped at the expense of the Moro and peasant communities. We refocused our efforts to oppose the government's all-out war policy, and for that purpose, spearheaded the formation of the broad alliance Kalinaw Mindanao.

By the middle of 2000, the Estrada regime's genocidal war in Mindanao had drained the national coffers and was taking its toll.

Broad coalition

It was at this time that we met with former Budget Secretary Jun Enriquez, who broached the idea of a broad formation called the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA). The PCA would attempt to bring together all anti-Estrada groups into a coalition which would work for his ouster and replacement by a council of leaders acceptable to all the political blocs.

Unfortunately, other groups were unhappy with Enriquez's close ties with Fidel Ramos and Gen. Jose Almonte. The PCA would later be one of the groups focused on bringing in the military to the anti-Estrada movement.

Momentum

On Sept. 21, 2000, many more cause-oriented groups were again calling for Estrada's ouster through slogans like "Never Again," "Oust Erap," "Erap Out" and "Enough of Erap."

At the rally sponsored by the Sept. 21 Committee at Liwasang Bonifacio, members of Lakas, led by then Sen. Teofisto Guingona and non-street parliamentarians like Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, Perfecto Yasay and Philconsa Chairperson Camilo Sabio, came out publicly against Estrada.

It was around this time that Singson opened the proverbial can of worms, providing the much-needed boost to the ouster movement. Singson's exposé signaled a major break within Estrada's criminal syndicate, inducing the first wave of defections from Estrada's erstwhile supporters.

Singson unleashed "Juetengate" on Oct. 9. A week later, Bayan, along with 23 other people's organizations and NGOs, filed the impeachment complaint in Congress which was endorsed by 77 congressmen.

This was followed by sustained protest actions nationwide, among them a KMU-led rally in Mendiola on Oct. 13, a KMP-led rally on Oct. 19, the weekly Ayala rallies (Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 8), the Nov. 4 Edsa Prayer Rally, the nationwide People's Strike of Nov. 14, the Luzon-wide Lakbayan of Nov. 29-30, the Jericho March of Dec. 7, the Parada ng Bayan on Dec. 18, and the People's Countdown from Dec. 27-31.

Triggers

The daily airing of the impeachment trial, despite the legal gobbledygook and procedural contortions resorted to by defense lawyers, heightened the people's shock and anger over Estrada's rapacity and rottenness.

There were three possible triggers that we felt would be the beginning of the end of Estrada's presidency. One, Estrada's acquittal by Feb. 12 or thereabouts. Two, a major rally to be called at Edsa on Jan. 26, where sections of the military and the police were expected to announce their defection. Three, a major development in the impeachment trial that would ignite massive public outrage.

As we all know, the least expected happened.

The nationwide protests and demonstrations continued until the night of Jan. 16, the start of the four-day People Power II uprising.

I was at the Senate that evening, watching the trial in the gallery with my co-signatories to the original impeachment complaint.

We were all set for a walkout, having been informed over the weekend by private prosecutors Romeo Capulong and Simeon Marcelo that the defense and pro-Estrada senator-judges were going to push for a vote on the opening of the controversial 2nd envelope.

I came out of the gallery shouting "*luto* (fixed)" and texting like mad. In a few minutes, I learned that the Bayan secretariat had already scheduled an indignation rally for 11 a.m. the next day. The plan was to surround the Senate and, if possible, conduct a siege to dramatize the people's protest at this abomination.

Again, the question that kept ringing in my head was: "Is this it?"

(To be continued)

'The Cardinal was very worried'

BY FR. ROBERT REYES

"THE CARDINAL was very worried. Violence might erupt. There may be casualties on both sides!"

Those were the exact words of Msgr. Clemente Ignacio (an assistant of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin) when he called me up in the wee hours of Jan. 20 to ask me to dissuade the crowd gathered at the Edsa Shrine from going to Mendiola.

The Cardinal was very worried, but not angry, I was told.

I wasted no time. In a few minutes, I had contacted Dinky Soliman and other Kompil II leaders. Within an hour, we were all in a building with Generals Lisandro Abadia, Edgardo Aglipay and Avelino Razon.

The generals were waiting for us to discuss the Mendiola march with them.

Ted Casiño of Bayan stayed with the generals to discuss the march. Kompil II went to a separate room to discuss the Cardinal's plea.

It was a difficult time. Since early that evening, everyone had been geared up to march to Malacañang. From 12 midnight until the early morning of Jan. 20, Saturday, the program at the Edsa Shrine had been a non-stop pep talk for the march.

Kompil II leaders respected the Cardinal's position, but also respected the autonomy of different groups within the council. It was decided—not without disappointment and reluctance—to leave each group free to decide whether to go to Mendiola or to stay at the shrine.

It was also decided that both Edsa Shrine and Mendiola were important and crucial in the struggle to oust then President Joseph Estrada.

It was agreed upon that I would speak in behalf of both the Cardinal and Kompil II and make an appeal to the people at the mammoth rally on Edsa to stay.

My colleagues in Kompil II were not too happy about the situation, but we had to believe in both the wisdom of the Cardinal's appeal to stay at the shrine and the passion to oust Estrada through a march to Mendiola.

Between the two seemingly polarized options were intense feelings and convictions. Cardinal Sin wished for a peaceful solution and so did Kompil II.

The God of Peace and a People of Peace in a beautiful confluence of events ousted an immoral President. The same God and the same Peaceful People do not want us to stop now.

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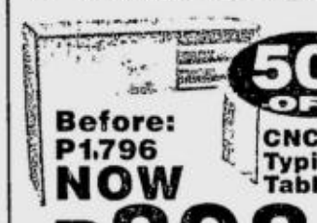
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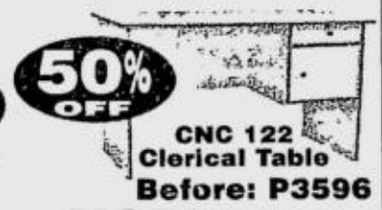
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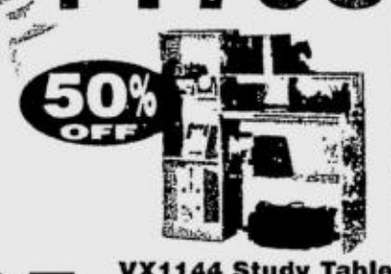
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It's 13-0 for Gloria, says Supreme Court

(From page A1)

(a sign) that petitioner had intended to give up the presidency even at that time . . .

"According to Secretary Angara, he asked Senator Pimentel to advise petitioner to consider the option of 'dignified exit or resignation.' Petitioner did not disagree but listened intently . . . .

"Significantly, the petitioner expressed no objection to the suggestion for a graceful and dignified exit but said he would never leave the country. At 10 p.m., petitioner revealed to Secretary Angara 'Ed, Angie guaranteed that I would have five days to a week in the Palace.' This is proof that petitioner had reconciled with himself to the reality that he had to resign. His mind was already concerned with the five-day grace period he would stay in the Palace. It was a matter of time . . ."

"By 11 p.m., former President Fidel Ramos called up Secretary Angara and requested, 'Ed *magtulungan tayo para magkaroon tayo* ng peaceful and orderly transfer of power.' There was no defiance to the request. Secretary Angara readily agreed. Again, we noted that at this stage, the problem was already about a peaceful and orderly transfer of power. The resignation of the petitioner was implied," the Supreme Court said.

Separate opinions

Justices Jose C. Vitug and Vicente V. Mendoza reportedly announced that they would submit a separate concurring decision on the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

The four associate justices who registered reservations on the vote on Estrada's immunity from suit were Bernardo Pardo, Santiago Kapunan, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Gutierrez. Except for Kapunan, all were Estrada appointees.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who went to Edsa to administer the oath of office to Ms Macapagal on Jan.20, and Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban had inhibited themselves.

Sources said the reservations harbored by Pardo, Kapunan, Ynares-Santiago and Gutierrez could still "disappear."

Erap knew

As of 9:30 last night, Estrada already knew about the high court's decision, according to one of his aides.

The ousted President was holed up in a room at the VIP Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City where he campaigned for senatorial candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and the Puwersa ng Masa.

He was conferring with former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez and former Customs Commissioner Nelson Tan.

According to INQUIRER sources, the high court, before it could decide on the questions of legitimacy and immunity, had to first decide on whether the Estrada petition was a political or a justiciable question. If the former, it would be deemed that the court had no jurisdiction over the Estrada petition.

Estrada through his lawyer Rene Saguisag had questioned before the Supreme Court the legality of the Macapagal presidency.

Estrada had claimed that he was still the President but was forced to go "on leave" by circumstances that culminated in People Power II. He also claimed that Ms Macapagal was the acting President.

Ms Macapagal's supporters, however, point out that she was already sworn into office shortly before Estrada left Malacañang through the back door.

The court cited a similar petition filed before the Supreme Court after People Power I in 1986 when Cory Aquino ascended to the presidency.

But the high court ruled that the petition concerned a political question as Aquino had formed a revolutionary government. The high court decided it had no jurisdiction over the petition questioning the legality of the Aquino presidency.

In the case of the Macapagal presidency, the tribunal ruled that it had jurisdiction over it because it was "justiciable."

Justiciable means that the case is capable of being decided by legal principle or by a court of justice. The high court ruled that the Macapagal presidency was constitutional and thus its jurisdiction was established.

Reactions

"To say that we are pleased is an understatement," Presidential Chief of Staff Renato Corona said after the Supreme Court voted to disregard Estrada's claim to the presidency.

"The victory is not only for President Macapagal-Arroyo but the entire nation. We've never been bothered by this and we've always been confident we would win the case," Corona said.

Rep. Joker Arroyo, a senatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition, said in Cagayan de Oro City that the high court's decision was "good for the country" as it established the "stability of the Macapagal administration."

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the high court's decision would strengthen the people's confidence in the Macapagal administration.

Judicial activism

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga said the 13 justices merely concurred with the decision of Chief Justice Davide. It was Davide who swore Ms Macapagal into office on Jan. 20.

"I call it judicial activism combined with legal statesmanship," Salonga said of Davide's action.

The 13-0 vote was a rout for Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, who filed the petition questioning the legality of Ms Macapagal's presidency.

It was Pacifico Agabin who filed the petition maintaining that Estrada was immune from suit.

After the plunder cases are filed with the Sandiganbayan, Estrada can be arrested because plunder is a nonbailable offense.

But his arrest may take some time, most likely after the May elections, as he can still file a motion for reconsideration with the Ombudsman.

If the Ombudsman turns down his motion, Estrada can still go to the Supreme Court to stop the prosecution of the case.

At midnight, a group of around 100 Estrada loyalists were marching toward the Supreme Court to protest the ruling.

DOWN on his luck and out of the presidency, Joseph Estrada lands hard on his hip in Cagayan de Oro but escapes with only a swollen ankle. ABS-CBN

Erap falls again; PPC bets jeered

(From page A1)

May 14 elections.

It was also the first time that the administration candidates were confronted by Estrada supporters who jeered and heckled them at the Carmen public market.

In contrast, Estrada was mobbed during his visits to the Cogon and Carmen markets.

While Estrada held a rally with his candidates in front of the provincial capitol, the PPC held their own in front of the Bandstand at Divisoria.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said they did not plan to have Estrada campaign opposite Ms Macapagal.

"This is purely coincidental. We planned the rally two weeks ago," Angara told the INQUIRER.

Rep. Butz Aquino said it would have been an interesting spectacle had both Estrada and Ms Macapagal been present in the city and campaigning for their candidates.

"There is no question that Estrada is more popular than Arroyo," Aquino said.

He said they planned to barnstorm to Iligan and Bukidnon today where the annual Kaamulan Festival is scheduled to open today in Malaybalay City.

Aquino said Estrada would also be going to Malaybalay City today.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula (Padayon-LDP) said the original plan was for Estrada to hold political caucuses in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities.

"We changed the plan when we were mobbed by people urging the President (Estrada) to hold a rally instead," Jaraula said.

Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano said he was hesitant to holding the rally of Estrada simultaneously with that of Macapagal.

He said he had earlier approved the permit for PPC candidates to hold a rally at the Bandstand.

"But Estrada made a strong appeal to allow him to speak before the residents of Cagayan de Oro," Emano told a local radio station.

Jaraula said it was a last-minute decision to hold an Estrada rally. The rally, he added, was held instead of the scheduled caucuses with local leaders of the province.

The decision to hold the rally, Jaraula maintained, came after their supporters and leaders protested saying that Estrada would only reach a few people in the caucuses.

He said that they never envisioned a contest between the two political forces.

However, talk in the opposition rally focused on comparisons of crowd estimates with Estrada supporters claiming that they had more in terms of attendance despite the rain.

Hand of friendship

At the sight of PPC candidates, the market vendors chanted they were still for Estrada. Some reportedly threw tomatoes at the candidates. But they did not lose their cool.

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo said the market incident did not mean that Cagayan de Oro was "Erap City," as he noted that only the heckling came from a "small portion" of the Carmen market, one of three markets in the city.

"That's why we invaded it precisely because there's still a small portion of Erap country there," Arroyo told reporters.

He said he believed that there were more anti-Estrada people in the market.

He said he tried to extend his hand to the hecklers.

"I extend my hand of friendship even to the enemy," Arroyo quipped.

Also not flustered by the incident was Sen. Juan Flavier who noted that this was because" you cannot get 100 percent" people on the side of the coalition.

"Some will retain their pro-Erap stand. That's OK with me. But I always tell them, *Isingit ang maliit*, let's DOH it," the former health secretary said.

Lawyer Francis Pangilinan said he hoped that the visit here of the PPC candidates like him would help the Estrada supporters "to see the light."

"It shows that democracy is alive," said Conrado Limcaoco, PPC spokesman and media director.

"Their behavior verifies what I'm saying that they did not shout back, they did not exhibit antagonistic behavior because they know this is part of democracy," he said.

The PPC, he said, wants to conduct a campaign that was "consonant with people power."

"The candidates are conscious of the fact they embody the ideals of people power," he said.

Limcaoco told the media to watch the PPC's "high-level" campaign as it was determined not to engage in name-calling, black propaganda or resort to "vile tactics."

Alive, won't resign

After his fall, Estrada was brought to the governor's office on the second floor where he was checked for injuries.

When he reappeared about an hour later, he was standing on the building's balcony where he delivered his speech.

In his speech delivered in Filipino, Estrada presented his case which was never heard in the impeachment trial as he said the prosecutors had walked out. He also reiterated he was still the President, saying that there are several ways a President could be removed, if he resigns or dies.

"I have not resigned. I will never resign. I will not abandon you," he told the audience who cheered loudly.

"(Another cause for a succession) is that the President should be dead. I am still alive..." Estrada said.

He also touched on the theme of "class war" saying that his ouster was the work of the rich.

Guingona on PPC disarray: Birth pangs

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

"BIRTH pangs," that's how Vice President Teofisto Guingona explained the reported disarray of the campaign of the People Power's Coalition (PPC).

"The campaign had no transition," Guingona reminded, saying that when the senatorial slate was formed, it began to campaign the next day.

PPC spokesman and media director, Conrado Limcaoco, said the PPC will try to communicate and coordinate with each other better.

"Coalition politics is always a challenge. If you have different parties, you can't avoid others having their own interests and that's our job which is to balance things out and project a unified campaign," he said.

But he stressed there was a lot of camaraderie among the 13 PPC candidates and that they were trying to help each other.

He promised that these "minor irritants" will be ironed out in the next few weeks.

Lakas-NUCD executive director Jose Rufino said he will meet with Limcaoco and PPC campaign director Paul Aquino in Cebu tomorrow to fix the schedules of the campaign sorties.

Guingona said he will meet with party leaders.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, deputy PPC campaign manager for the National Capital Region, had complained that he was not informed of some of the schedules of the campaign sorties.

Macapagal . . .

(From page A1)

volumes of copies of more than 200-year-old documents containing a reference to a possible ancestor of Ms Macapagal.

According to Laya, a centuries-old record from the country's management and archives office shows that a Josep Macapagal was born in 1729.

"There is the Lakandula file and the oldest of these documents is a record of the baptism of a boy, Don Josep Macapagal," he said, adding the boy's parents were Don Juan Macapagal and Doña Maria Pascuala.

The President might "be the great-great-great-15-times-granddaughter (sic) of the original Josep Macapagal," Laya said in award ceremonies of Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan 2000 at the Palace.

It is also possible, he said, that Ms Macapagal's ancestors are also linked to her husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo.

"The (godfather) of baby (Josep Macapagal) was named Domingo Tuazon and Mr. Miguel Arroyo is also a descendant of the Tuazon family," Laya said. "So, it's quite possible that the *ninong* is also an ancestor."

Lakandula was once a powerful ruler of Tondo and the "entire north of Manila, Bulacan and all the way to Pampanga," Laya said.

Files from the 1660s indicate that when the Spanish landed in what would become Manila, they found the surrounding land ruled by Lakandula, Rajah Matanda and Rajah Soliman.

After a fierce battle, Spanish leader Miguel Lopez de Legazpi concluded a peace and friendship treaty with the three rulers.

Tax-exempt President?

In 1751, Spanish King Ferdinand VI issued a decree exempting descendants of the three "from taxes and forced labor."

'It was because of these exemptions that the Spaniards drafted a record of the descendants of the rulers to keep track of those entitled to the privilege.

In 1754, a census was also conducted in which people in Bulacan and Pampanga were asked to submit the names of the descendants of the three rulers.

These records were updated in 1885.

And since the native rulers were Muslims, Laya said it is possible that Macapagal also has Moro blood in her.

"Originally, perhaps, they were Muslims . . . because rulers of Manila were relatives of the Sultan of Brunei and the Sultan of Sulu," he said.

In her speech at the NCCA gathering, the President pushed for the promotion and respect of indigenous cultures, saying her government's basic cultural policy is to "promote the integration of Filipinos into a community of shared values (while) recognizing (their) diversity."

'Mad cow'. . .

(From page A1)

meat sales doubled this week. Carabeef also began surfacing here in the last two days.

Despite the ban on the killing of dogs, orders for *azucena* have gone up.

A city restaurant known for serving the delicacy on the sly is heeding requests from customers that it broker the retail of dog meat on the side.

The sale of dog meat is forbidden by Republic Act No. 8485, or the Animal Welfare Act, despite its popularity in this city and in the Cordillera.

The law was passed in 1998.

Dog meat aficionados here have been seeking guidelines that will exclude the Cordillera from the prohibition because dogs are ritual animals among Igorots.

Independent meat retailers said the mad cow disease scare was raising carabeef consumption.

"(Beef sales) are not so low although many more retailers are trying out carabeef instead. Many beef dealers are worried that eventually consumers will stop buying beef," a meat vendor said in Filipino.

The vendor noted the proliferation of carabeef counters. "The meat is darker, and coarser, but it is selling well," he said.

Carabeef here sells at P100 a kilo, P20 cheaper than a kilo of beef.

"I know the taste is different, but if carabeef is cheaper, the hungry will not mind the change," the vendor said.

Dr. Brigit Piok, city veterinarian, admitted that there was growing demand for carabeef.

"The slaughterhouse butchers 20 cows every day. Lately, we have allowed one or two carabaos to be butchered," Piok said.

But carabeef is regulated. "We only allow the slaughter of carabaos when these are 7-year-old males or up to 11-year-old females. Government would rather protect carabaos as farm animals, not food, but we are not forbidden from selling them," the veterinarian said.

Vendors said neither dog meat nor carabeef would replace beef in the long term.

Ruperto Alviar, president of the local meat retailers association, has been countering mad cow disease scare reports over radio, explaining that huge grocery chains distribute imported meat products.

Rustan's assurance

In Manila, the Rustan Supercenters Inc. yesterday assured the public that its beef was safe for human consumption.

It said that the beef sold at Shopwise and Rustan Supermarkets were imported exclusively from Australia.

On Thursday, customs officials seized 15 containers of frozen beef and bone-meal from Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands at the port of Manila and have ordered that these be returned.

The meat, which arrived at the end of last year, was held after importers tried to sneak it out of the port without the necessary permits, the officials said.

The meat was held under a ban on the import of live cattle, sheep and goats, and meat products from 13 European countries.

Customs officials in Cebu also ordered meat processing firm Monterey Foods Corp. to ship back 25 tons of frozen, boneless beef from Ireland which arrived in mid-January.

Customs district collector Santiago Maravillas told reporters he expected Monterey Foods to comply with the order by next week.

The agriculture department imposed the ban in November to guard against the spread of new variant Creuzfeld-Jakob disease, which researchers believe is transmitted by eating beef infected with mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Press reports Friday quoted Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor as saying he would call for stronger penalties against those who bring in meat from banned sources. He urged the public to buy local meat.

Denmark has asked the Philippines to lift a ban on its beef products saying its products were free from mad cow and foot-and-mouth diseases. ***With a report from AFP***

Elections law gives bets equal access

(From page A1)

lines on the use of propaganda materials.

The IRR takes effect seven days after publication in two newspapers of general circulation. It covers the candidates for the 17,314 posts, including 13 Senate seats, up for grabs in the May 14 elections.

Under the IRR, newspaper columnists and reporters and TV and radio commentators, announcers, reporters, on-air correspondents, and personalities who are candidates for public office or are campaigning for candidates are deemed resigned or on leave from their media work during the campaign period.

The Comelec also ruled that no radio, cable TV or TV station should allow the scheduling of any program or permit any sponsor to manifestly favor or oppose any candidate or political party by unduly or repeatedly referring to, or including the candidate or political party in such a program.

This is "without prejudice to the right of said broadcast entities to air accounts of significant news or newsworthy events and views on matters of public interest," it said.

Ad ban

The Fair Elections Act, which seeks to enhance the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections, lifts the ban on paid political ads in the mass media but sets space and time limits to give equal access to all candidates.

Under the IRR, print ads shall not exceed one-fourth page in broadsheets like the INQUIRER, and one-half page in tabloids thrice a week per newspaper, magazine or any other publication during the campaign period.

Each candidate or political party running for a national elective office is entitled to not more than 120 minutes of ads on TV and 180 minutes on radio, whether paid or donated, for the duration of the campaign period.

For local elective candidates or political parties, the time limit for ads, whether paid or donated, is 60 minutes on TV and 90 minutes on radio.

Media outlets are also required to charge political parties and candidates a discounted rate of 30 percent for TV, 20 percent for radio, and 10 percent for print over the average rates charged during the first three quarters of the calendar year preceding the elections.

Each broadcast given free of charge by the radio or TV station must be identified by the words "Airtime for this broadcast was provided free of charge by," followed by the true and correct name and address of the broadcast entity.

P3 per voter

The IRR allows official candidates of political parties to spend only P3 for every voter registered in the constituency where they filed their certificates of candidacy.

Political parties and coalitions may spend another P5 for every voter in the constituency where they have official candidates.

Independent candidates and party-list groups are allowed to spend P5 for every registered voter.

The amounts are no different from the limitations on expenditures specified by a 1991 law, Republic Act 711, which provides for electoral reforms and synchronized national and local elections.

The IRR allows the conduct of election surveys. But pollsters are required to identify the person or group who commissioned the survey and state their research methodologies, and furnish the Comelec the survey report together with the raw data for verification by the poll body, political parties, candidates and any Comelec-accredited citizen arm.

Publication of surveys affecting national and local candidates is not allowed 15 days and seven days, respectively, before the election.

Exit polls are also allowed, but pollsters cannot conduct their surveys within 50 meters from a polling place, whether the survey is taken in a home, dwelling and other places. Pollsters are required to wear distinctive clothing and prominently display an identification card.

Results of the exit polls may be announced after the closing of the voting precincts on election day. The total number of respondents and the places where the polls were taken must be identified.

The announcement should also state that the polls are unofficial and do not represent a trend.

Poster areas

The Comelec also limited the posting of campaign materials to authorized poster areas in public places and in private places with the consent of the owner.

Common poster areas are covered by these limitations:

- The total number for each political party, party-list group and independent candidate shall not exceed 10 in each city or municipality by council or district.
- The location includes public places such as plazas, markets, barangay centers and the like.

The size of each common poster area shall not exceed 12 feet by 16 feet or its equivalent, but not exceeding a total area of 192 square feet for political parties and party-list groups; and four feet by six feet or its equivalent, but not exceeding a total area of 24 square feet for independent candidates.

The individual posters put up in each common poster area shall not exceed two feet by three feet. In case of space limitations, posters of candidates of political parties may be reduced to a uniform size to accommodate all candidates.

The size of the common poster area for party-list groups shall not exceed 12 feet by 16 feet or its equivalent, but not exceeding a total area of 192 square feet.

One common poster area is allowed for every 32 party-list groups.

Shell captures PBA top spot

GAME TODAY *(Iloilo City)*
5 p.m. — Red Bull vs Ginebra

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

EVEN while missing Benjie Paras, Shell Velocity proved too much for Tanduay Gold last night, scoring a 91-75 rout to claim the PBA All-Filipino Cup lead at Philsports.

Paras dressed up for the game but coach Perry Ronquillo didn't feel the need to field him in as the rest of the Turbochargers were completely on top of the situation.

Driven by its young guns, Shell fired away from the start and never let Tanduay recover to take leadership with a 5-2 record.

The Rhummasters, lacking in big men as well as cohesion, dropped to their fifth loss in seven games for a solo stint in the cellar.

"We don't have any delusions of grandeur just because we are suddenly the leader," said Ronquillo. "It was hardwork that made it possible.And it's hardwork that would get us to where we want to be."

The Turbochargers showed no trace of being the worst team last season, making all the right moves, from spreading the scoring load to putting on unrelenting defense.

Shell's defense was concentrated on Jeffrey Cariaso and Dondon Hontiveros, who failed to do their usual stuff under the pesky guarding of Chris Jackson and Rob Wainwright.

Dale Singson topscored with 21 points but it was Mark Telan and Jackson who starred for Shell. Telan had 13 points,14 rebounds, three blocks and two assists.

Jackson wound up with seven points, 10 rebounds and four assists on top of controlling Cariaso, who nevertheless had 18 points.

In the second game, Alaska Milk defeated Purefoods, 84-71, to post its second straight win and improve to 3-4, tying the Hotdogs.

The scores:

SHELL 91 – Singson 21, Lim 16, Hrabak 16, Telan 13, Wainwright 12, Jackson 7, Esplana 3, Del Rosario 2, Marzan 1, Dualan 0, Dela Cruz 0.

TANDUAY 75 – Cariaso 18, Locsin 17, Hawkins 15, Hontiveros 10, Yu 4, Arboleda 4, Agapito 3, Balingit 2, Webb 2, Calimag 0, Santos 0, Realubit 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 46-32, 69-48, 91-75.

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast today's PBA game from Iloilo City between the Ginebra Gin Kings and Red Bull Thunder at 10 tonight on IBC-13. Both teams sport identical 4-2 win-loss records.

Negros Slashers tap Aldeguer's services

THE NEGROS Slashers recently acquired ace pointguard Dino Aldeguer with high hopes of improving their title chances in the 2001 MBA season set to start June 3.

Slashers coach Robert Sison said Aldeguer's addition will be a big boost to Negros' backcourt..

Aldeguer sees his stint with the Slashers as a bigger challenge to his basketball career after playing a vital role to the back-to-back crowns of both De La Salle Green Archers in the UAAP and Welcoat Paints in the PBL. He also played for one year with Alaska in the PBA.

"This is a bigger challenge since I'll be playing for my family's hometown. I'll try my best," said Aldeguer, whose addition with the Slashers was made possible through the intercession of family friend Luigi Tabuena.

Sison also confirmed negotiations for the acquisition of former Iloilo Mega Voltz star Vince Hizon and Laguna Lakers slotmat Jeffrey Flowers.

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Shark to adjust in Yap's absence

BY DENNIS U. EROA

SILENCE is golden for Shark Energy Drink, the PBL's newest toast.

While its rivals, including mighty Welcoat Paints, are feverishly preparing for the second holding of the Chairman's Cup slated on March 24 at the Makati Coliseum, Shark hasn't lured a big name in its roster.

The Power Boosters will miss Challenge Cup finals MVP Roger Yap as they try to make a rousing follow-up to their victory over the Paintmasters in the Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series at the Makati Coliseum.

"Some of the guys must step up because Roger is no longer around," said winning mentor Leo Austria."We're going to make adjustments and stick to the Shark system."

The 6-foot Yap averaged 19 points per game in the titular series and was Shark's go-to-guy. He now serves as Noy Castillo's reliever in Purefoods.

Austria said Shark is waiting for the lesser-known Ricky Natividad to complete the roster. Natividad, 6-foot-5, is a product of the PSBA Jaguars.

Another hopeful is Jun Balares, a 5-foot-10 playmaker from the University of Baguio.

Without Yap, much of Shark's offensive load is now with the high-leaping Chester Tolomia. Nicknamed "Elevator" for his gravity-defying acts, Tolomia's outside shooting pales in comparison with Yap.

Gilbert Malabanan and Michael Robinson can also provide the scoring sock. Erwin Velez, Jing Rodriguez, Gerald Ortega, Ryzal Castro and Irvin Sotto remain to contest the rebounds.

The team holds daily practices at the Meralco Gym.

'Moto' tourney today

DEFENDING champion Glen Aguilar opens his bid for an unprecedented back-to-back title as the PLDT presents the MAD (Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga) National Motocross Super Series 2001 that finally comes off the wraps today at Block 56 Cepa near Gate 1 in Fort Bonifacio.

Aguilar, who snatched the overall title with a dramatic, come-from-behind victory over Jovie Saulog last year, heads a small but elite cast of riders vying in the pro open category in this series supported by Norkis-Yamaha, Dreambikes Superstore, Bench, Tirelli, Agua Vida, FBDC, Smart ZED, Transtainer System and Crossover 105.1.

Saulog will try to redeem himself this year, along with Edith the prodigious Shell-Yamaha quartet of Ernie Leongson, Popeye Rubi, Weng Yapparcon and 1994 champion Jing Leongson.

Kenneth San Andres, the "Wonder Boy" from Valenzuela City, will also defend the title in the mini category.

San Andres, the Scoop Jim Sotto Memorial Youth Achievement awardee for motocross in 1999, will be challenged anew by perennial rivals Joseph Tuvilla, Randall Bordador, Joanna Arreglado and Jimboy Marcelo.

For details, call Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. at tels. 723-8896 and 725-2484.

NBA results

Seattle 101, Cleveland 99, OT; New York 95, Boston 88; San Antonio 91, Phoenix 71; Houston 108, Milwaukee 91; Portland 94, LA Clippers 81. *AP*

Mandaluyong tilt tonight

THE ONLY major cockfighting event today in Metro Manila will be held at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, as the "Joshua and Shio 4-Cock Derby" fires off at 6 p.m.

More than 50 quality fights are on tap in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and hosted by Peping Suarez and Renato Shio.

Among the participants are Al Tantay, Dante Eustaquio, Muroy Dolorico, Abo Centeno, Arnold Mendoza, Junjun Lorente, Jojo Alcovendaz, Rollie Flowers, Butchoy Olano, Rico Pacaldo, Allan Tan, Danny Ty, Eric Lu, Eric dela Rosa, Peter Lingat, Joseph Sy, Louie Cua, William Co, Boy Garcia, Cesar Tangkad, Benjie Lim and Rey Oliveros, among others.

In a gesture of appreciation to the support of countless aficionados of Mandaluyong Coliseum, the admission fees have been lowered to P200 (general admission) and P350 (ringside) for all Saturday 4-cock derbies.

To follow immediately is the "6th Ucap/Firebird Anito BM 6-Cock Derby" on March 6 and 8 (Tuesday and Thursday) hosted by hotelier Biboy Enriquez and Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

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Race 4—1. Raise A Fire 2. Bold Freddy 3. Truthful Lady
Race 5—1. Dr. Jones 2. Golden State 3. Rosalinda 4. Petitioner
Race 6—1. Powerhouse 2. Notable 3. Despedida
Race 7—1. Typhoon Belle 2. Blackijhay 3. Majestic Ruler
Race 8—1. Traktora 2. Perfect Gift 3. Call to Action
Race 9—1. Jamie's Princess 2. Houdini 3. Black Force 4. True Mighty
Race 10—1. Princely Native 2. Daylaimee 3. Gold Mark
Race 11—1. Walang Hanggan 2. Batang Pier 3. Magic Fingers
Race 12—1. Simlong 2. Extraordinaire 3. Kingair 4. Reine Margaux

Career highs

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

WHILE it's true that scoring has plummeted across the board in the NBA this season, there have been numerous individual performances that resulted in career highwater marks.

A total of 34 players have already surpassed their career highs in scoring so far this season among non-rookies whose career best is 30 or more points.

The latest to join the group was Milwaukee Bucks guard Ray Allen, who torched the Philadelphia 76ers for a career-high 42 points in a 98-91 road triumph last Feb. 26.

The 6-5 All-Star put on a jumpshooting display, sinking 12 of his final 13 field attempts and collecting 21 points in the fourth quarter despite a nose that was broken in a first-quarter-collision with newly acquired Philadelphia center Dikembe Mutombo's elbow.

Allen's previous high was 40 points, having recently equalled the mark in a Nov. 11, 2000 game against Minnesota.

Philly guard Allen Iverson, the leading MVP contender, heads the list of new career high-establishing scorers. "The Answer" holds the NBA season high with 54 points in the 76ers' 107-103 victory at Cleveland on Jan. 6. Fifteen days later, the 6-foot Georgetown alum also knocked in 51 markers in a 110-106 home overtime loss to Toronto.

Prior to this season, Iverson's top scoring feat was 50 points, which he first set also at Cleveland in April 1997 as a rookie pro then equalled against Sacramento in February 2000.

The largest scoring improvement was registered by Phoenix guard Tony Delk, who knocked in 53 markers in a 121-117 overtime setback in Sacramento on Jan. 2. The 6-2 Delk, and ex-King reserve who broke into the Suns' starting lineup this campaign following Penny Hardaway's injury, had tallied no more than 26 points in his four previous NBA seasons before this.

Delk, a 7.5-ppg career scorer going into the 2000-01 wars, and 6-11 journeyman center Walt Wesley, a 10-year vet from 1966-67 through 1975-76 who once scored 50 for Cleveland and owned an 8.5-point career clip, are the only men in NBA annals with a single-digit career scoring average to have a 50 points-or-more game.

Other players to have established new career scoring highs this season include the LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant, 51 (old: 40); Golden State's Antawn Jamison, back-to-back 51s (37); Sacramento's Chris Webber, 51 (40); New Jersey's Stephon Marbury, 50 (42); Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse, 46 (40); Milwaukee's Glen Robinson, 45 (44); Orlando's Tracy McGrady, 44 (28); Indiana's Jalen Rose, 42 (35); Boston's Paul Pierce, 42 (38); Portland's Rasheed Wallace, 42 (38); Houston's Cuttino Mobley, 41 (35); Milwaukee's Tim Thomas, 38 (27); Chicago's Ron Mercer, 39 (35); and Sacramento's Predrag Stojakovic, 39 (30).

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Tuñacao loses WBC diadem

RP boxer kayoed in 1st round by underrated Thai foe

BY RECAH TRINIDAD

PHICHIT, Thailand—Malcolm Tuñacao of the Philippines walked into the blinding thunderclap punches of his underrated Thai challenger to lose the World Boxing Council flyweight crown in a stunning first round knockout here yesterday.

Referee Kim Jae bong of South Korea jumped in and ruled an automatic stoppage after Pongsaklek Wonjongkam toppled the gutsy but gameless Filipino for the second time at 2:44 of the opening round. Before that, Tuñacao, starting loose and pale, had suffered a standing knockdown at 1:30:02 as the ecstatic Thai fans shrieked and celebrated at ringside.

Tuñacao sat at the edge of the ring crying and cursing. He dared, but the severe weight reduction he had undergone cost him to suffer cramps two straight days before the fight.

"*Hindi ko na ho kaya ang* flyweight. *Sayang, pinilit ko talaga. Hindi ko na kaya ang timbang,*" Tuñacao told the INQUIRER.

Tuñacao had to skip full meals for at least four days in a bid to trim down. But when he woke up on the day of the official weigh-in Thursday, he was still three pounds over the limit.

He was made to do extra jogs around his hotel in suburban Taphan Hin and still had to shed a full pound later by locking himself up for almost 30 minutes in a closed van that had been left under the sun.

He tipped 112 pound in one try during the weigh-in at 3 p.m.

TUÑACAO

The battle plan was for Tuñacao to first box and move around and use his superior footwork before going for the kill. But he promptly lost focus and composure after he was tagged and felled by a slashing right cross to the head to suffer the first knockdown.

The championship, originally scheduled in November, was postponed at the last minute after Tuñacao had already reached peak form. The only excuse given by Thai promoters was the lack of television sponsors.

Before the official weigh-in on Thursday, Cebu-based manager Rex Wakee Salud threatened to pull out his fighter from the championship after Tuñacao was ejected from his hotel room at the Phichit Plaza Hotel which they had tried to use as temporary quarters.

Games and Amusements Board chair Dominador Cepeda said he would raise the issue of the shabby treatment accorded the world champ with the WBC.

Salud first realized that the Thais would make it hard for the Filipino group after Tuñacao was booked in a slum area boarding house during their five-day stay in Bangkok when it was clearly stated in the contract that the champ and his group would be billeted in a first class hotel.

Tuñacao, who was abandoned by his father while still a small boy, received a $40,000 purse for the second defense of the 112-pound crown he won by a 7th round stoppage of Medgoen 3-K Battery in Odon Thani, Thailand.

The championship here was the last of two options that had tied Tuñacao's contract with Thai promoters.

Before the shocking defeat, which cost the Philippines its lone world crown, Filipino Alfren Bulala stopped former world flyweight champion 3-K Battery in the fifth round and is expected to be ranked among the top 10 in the WBC.

For his clash with Wonjongkam, Tuñacao vowed he would no longer play fancy and showboat as he had foolishly done against Celes Kobayashi in Tokyo last November.

The first title defense against Kobayashi ended in a split draw. Experts felt that Tuñacao had failed to confirm his championship with that indecisive result against the Japanese challenger.

After making the weight on Thursday, Tuñacao readily vowed to give his best and confirm his kingship here. He failed on his 13th fight as a pro yesterday, a Friday.

RP pugilists reign supreme

BOXING kicked off its odyssey to the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games on a bright note as Filipino boxers captured the overall title in the Fujian Friendship Boxing Championship held in China.

Headed by seasoned amateur fighters Sonny Doliente and Junie Tizon, the Filipinos snared three golds, a silver and a bronze in topping the weeklong tournament, which ended on Wednesday.

The seven-man boxing team, bankrolled by businessman Ben Ching, arrived last night from Tianmen, China.

Next stop for the boxers will be consecutive tournaments in Italy, England and Germany slated late this month after which five more international tournaments are on tap prior to the SEA Games in September.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, said the success of the Fujian campaign augured well for the country's bid in the biennial meet.

He added the country would participate in 10 weight divisions but said the final lineup would not be made available until the last qualifying early in July. *June Navarro*

Holyfield fights anew at age 38

LAS VEGAS—If Evander Holyfield's fight plans could be as choreographed as his training routine, he surely wouldn't be fighting John Ruiz once again Saturday night.

Unfortunately for the 38-year-old warrior, they aren't.

Holyfield meets Ruiz for the second time in six months Saturday (Sunday in Manila) not because he has much to gain from fighting the journeyman from Massachusetts. It's simply that he doesn't have too many other options while waiting for big fights that may never occur.

Officially, the WBA mandated the rematch because some thought Ruiz beat Holyfield when they fought for the vacant WBA heavyweight title last August. But a fight with Ruiz may be as good as Holyfield can do while he hopes for fights with Lennox Lewis or Mike Tyson.

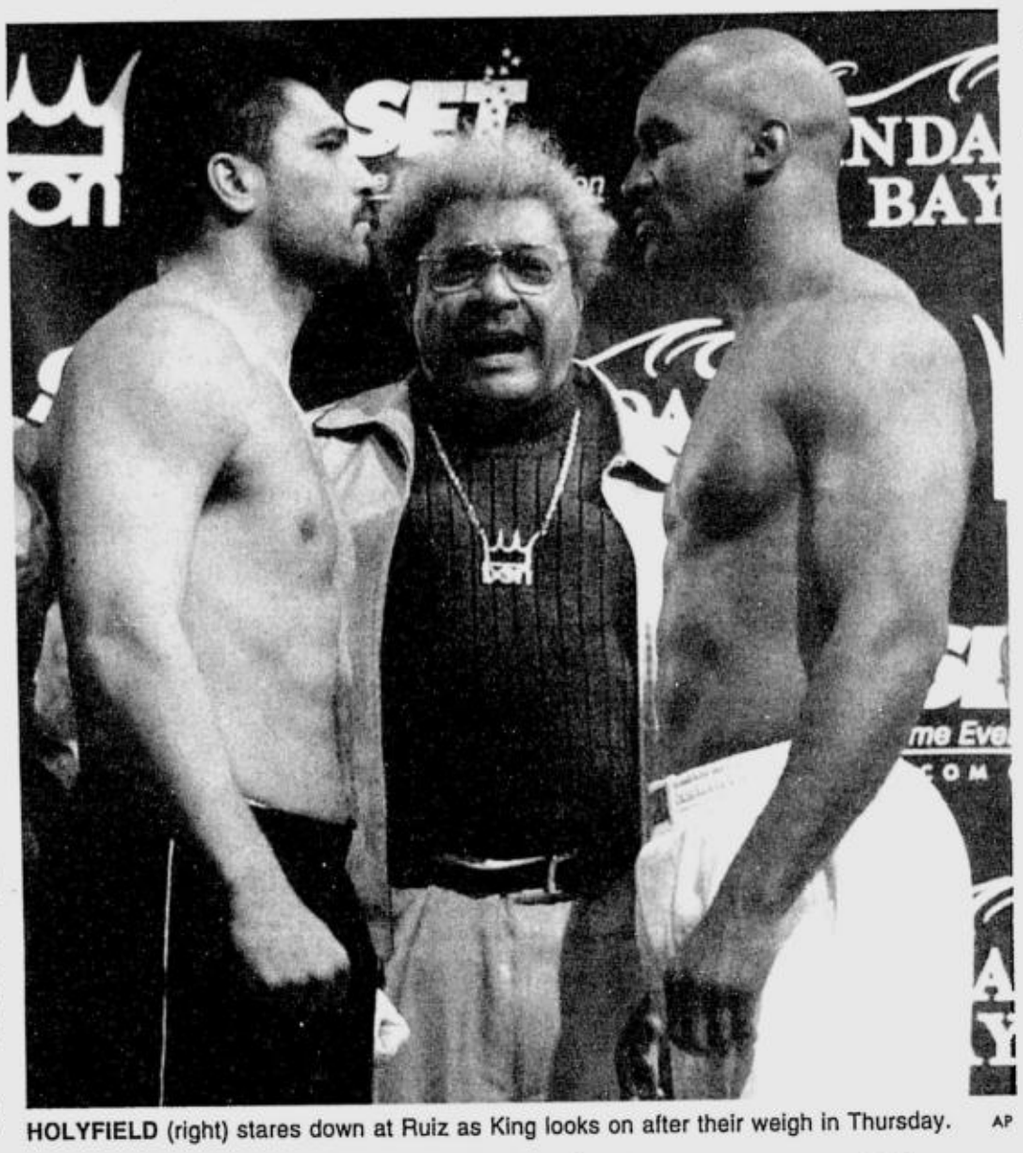
"It's a humbling thing when you don't have the belts," Holyfield said. "They don't have to fight you unless they get in a drought and need the money."

Holyfield does have a belt, of course, but it means little to anyone other than Ruiz and promoter Don King. A judge took the WBA belt from Lewis, who won the undisputed heavyweight championship after beating Holyfield.

So while Holyfield went through his carefully planned and well rehearsed series of stretching exercises and shadow boxing one night earlier this week, he did it with the knowledge that beating Ruiz again will do little but bide time waiting for a fight he really wants.

And, at the age of 38, time may be running out.

"I know how I want my career to end, and that will be just as exciting as when I started," Holyfield said. *AP*


HOLYFIELD (right) stares down at Ruiz as King looks on after their weigh in Thursday. AP

JUNE DUEL UP

Ali, Frazier kids head boxing card

VERONA, New York — Sister Smoke was smokin' and the Queen Bee was buzzing.

Jacqui Frazier-Lyde and Laila Ali aren't fighting each other on Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila), but you never would have known it listening to their taunts during training this week as they prepared to box on the same card at Turning Stone Casino.

FRAZIER

ALI

"Her face is just going to be so beat-up because of all the mess she's been talking," said Ali, the 23-year-old daughter of Muhammad Ali. "Yeah, there's true dislike because you know my saying—Jacqui Frazier's a fool, she doesn't know how to act. So, somebody like me who does know how to act, has a lot of class, can't stand a woman like that. I really got to just put her on the spot when we get in the ring."

Ali, unbeaten in eight fights with seven knockouts, and Frazier-Lyde are expected to finally meet in June, most likely outdoors here at the casino, where Ali made her professional debut 17 months ago. Frazier-Lyde, who got her nickname from Muhammad Ali, can't wait.

"I was ready to fight Laila a year ago, but let me just say this right now—she's in for a more artful butt-kicking than originally," said Frazier-Lyde, 39, who has won all six of her professional bouts by knockout. "She should have fought me a year ago when I challenged her on the 25th anniversary of the Thrilla in Manila.

Meanwhile, Mike Tyson had some guests over Thursday and actually seemed glad to see them.

The former heavyweight boxing champion welcomed some writers past a few grim-faced security men and into his home, offering pastries and coffee along with a big helping of his view of the current state of heavyweight affairs.

Tyson, notorious for his mood swings in and out of the ring, was a jovial host as he held court in his living room and then chatted affably with anyone wanting to hang around underneath a balcony adorned with two large murals of famous fighters. *AP*

Another 64 gives Tiger 2-shot edge

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Every golfer should experience Tiger Woods' so-called "slump."

Woods fashioned his second straight nearly flawless 8-under 64 Friday in the second round of the Dubai Desert Classic, which was barely enough to give him a two-stroke lead over his playing partner for the second day—Dane Thomas Bjorn.

Bjorn finished with a 66—dropping two strokes back when Woods birdied the final two holes—after matching him with a 64 on Friday.

Through 36 holes, Woods and Bjorn have pushed and chased each other, never letting the other pull away. Taking advantage of silk-like greens on the Majlis Course Emirates Golf Club, between them they have birdied every hole at least once.

Woods' total of 16-under 128 was also a tournament record for the opening 36 holes, two better than Ernie Els in 1994.

Woods (16) and Bjorn (15) have racked up 31 birdies with Bjorn making the only bogey.

Indian Jeev Milkha Singh shot a 6-under 66 Friday to go with a 67, putting him four behind Woods with England Brian Davis five back after a 65 Friday.

Woods, who is 0-for-5 in tournaments this season and hasn't won since November, had his lowest round of the season Thursday as he took advantage of the silky smooth greens on the 7,127-yard (6,486-meter) Majlis Course at the Emirates Golf Club.

The trip from Los Angeles took 25 1/2 hours, but it was well worth the flight with Woods being paid at $2 million to play in the Arabian desert layout. *AP*

Pasga entries top Corporate Cup

TEAMS from the Philippine Asian Senior Golfers Association (Pasga) dominated action in the recent seniors division play of the 13th Corporate Cup Golf Championships at the Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club course in Boracay.

The Pasga I team composed of Pablo Soon, Tony Katigbak, Archie Lacson and Pompeyo Nolasco aggregated 355 points on rounds of 186-189 to nip a *balikbayan* squad, Texas 1, by a mere point for the top plum in Group I.

Pasga also ruled Group II with the quartet of Manuel Carmona, Lito del Rosario, Lito Jizon and Arsenio Yulo compiling 299 for a runaway 18-point win over US-based Skywest.

George Tee of Houston and Pasga's Lito Hizon emerged as the individual topnotchers of the event backed by College Assurance Plan, GP Barnes Group of Companies, Fil-Estate Group of Companies and Fairways and Bluewater as presenters.

The other sponsors are San Miguel Beer, Premier Wine and Spirits and Northwest Airlines with Scholl, the world's specialist in foot and leg care, as hole sponsor.

The regular event of the two-part series staged by the Corporate Cup Golf Foundation Inc. will be held March 6 and 7 at the world-famous Fairways and Bluewater course with March 5 reserved for a practice round.

Tee came up with the best one round effort of 53 then followed it up with a 49 for 102, a good six points ahead of Pasga's Nolasco and seven clear of teammate Fred Bartolome.

Jizon and Yulo completed a 1-3 finish for Pasga in Group II with their 80 and 76 points, respectively, with Cecil Hechanova, who had 79, wounding up in between them.

Del Rosario was the top point producer for Pasga 2 with his 89 (42-47) while Tony Paclebar led Skywest with his 73.

Davao amateur meet slated March 10-11

THE NIKE Athletic Club Golf Open fires off on March 10-11 at the famous Apo Golf and Country Club in Davao City.

The two-day, 18-hole individual format amateur golfest is expected to attract more than 400 players from all over the country. This event is the official golf tournament of the Araw ng Dabaw festivities, the foundation day of Davao City.

Entry fee is P2,000 per player inclusive of giveaways (one pair of Nike Course Air Accel E Golf Shoes), a practice round at Apo, and food, beverage and raffle during the awards night at Davao Convention and Trade Center on March 11.

Beta Sigma golf slated

THE BETA Sigma Fraternity will hold the First Malmon Golf Cup dubbed "Isang Palo Para Kay Banz" on March 14 at the Veterans course in Quezon City.

The Beta Sigma tournament is expected to raise funds for "Banz" who is suffering from leukemia. "Banz" was the illustrator of the cartoon character of Beta Sigma.

Tee-off time is scheduled between 11 and 12:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at P1,500 each. This will cover the green fee, caddy fee, buffet dinner and raffle prizes.

For tickets and information please contact Danny Noveno (09178122763), Danny Dionisio (09178105414), Jess Custodio (09175368273), Junie Noveno (09185317819) and Norio Alumno (09178199203/7110306).

Substance over technicality

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

LIKE so many others, I am saddened by the election guidelines submitted by Freddie Jalasco of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to the Philippine Olympic Committee to end the leadership crisis in the BAP. Why? Because the guidelines will only prolong the problem instead of resolving the matter immediately for the following reasons:

1. The election process will only start when basketball associations recognized by the BAP from the various regions of the country elect their respective regional director. In turn, these elected regional directors will represent the regions in the national assembly.

2. The national assembly will then elect 16 regional directors who will vote, together with the members of the executive board (appointed by the president), the association president. A commission of election, including a representative from the POC, will monitor the proceedings.

3. The timetable for the election, said Jalasco, would be not less than six months, which is within the limit of the BAP constitution and bylaws.

Methinks that "not-less-than-six month" period is too long. Besides, the process is too tedious and, in some ways, too technical. There should be a faster way to solve the unsettling question instead of wasting valuable time. Why not use the old roster of BAP voters who elected Jalasco as president in this election? This will not use the old roster of BAP voters who elected Jalasco as president in this election? This will not only hasten the election process, but will also decide—once and for all—if Jalasco still has the mandate of the BAP voters. It's bad enough that Philippine sports is lagging behind her Asian neighbors, w present conflict (between F. asco and Tiny Literal, who both claim to be BAP president) is leaving the players and coaches demoralized and hampering their training for two forthcoming regional meets.

Literal was elected BAP president in a snap election which ousted Jalasco last December. Literal's victory was reaffirmed on Feb. 18 by a big majority of the association's national board during a national assembly in San Pablo City. Yet, Jalasco is recognized by the POC as the head of the basketball body, a decision which led Literal to file a court suit against the POC headed by Celso Dayrit and Freddie Jalasco.

Amid the turmoil, the men's team, coached by David Zamar, continues to hone for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association meet in Manila next month while the women's team, mentored by Bay Cristobal, continues to prepare for the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur this September. By the way, both coaches are backing Literal and Graham Lim, the secretary general of the "other" BAP, in the power struggle. The coaches added that the training of their teams will be maintained until the Seaba and SEA Games.

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. Host country Yugoslavia became the toast of the crowd in May 1970 when it won the World Basketball Championship, losing only one game (to the Soviet Union, 87-72). The Yugos won five gut-wrenching matches in the final round held in Ljubljana. After finishing 10th and last during its maiden appearance in Buenos Aires in 1950, Yugoslavia improved remarkably by clinching the silver medals in 1963 (Rio de Janeiro) and in 1967 (Montevideo). The 1970 world championship was the most representative ever in the tournament's storied history, with all continents and areas of the world competing. In the finals, red-hot Yugoslavia scored victories over Italy, 66-63 (28-24), Brazil; 80-55 (40-26), Czechoslovakia, 94-34 (42-40), Uruguay, 63-45 (37-26) and the Untied States, 70-63 (35-32). The final placings: 1. Yugoslavia (5-1). 2. Brazil (4-2). 3. Soviet Union (4-2) 4. Italy (3-3). 5. United States (3-3) 6. Czechoslovakia (2-6) and 7. Uruguay (0-6). In capturing the silver, Brazil defeated Soviet Union, 66-64, after trailing at the half, 27-28... The Philippines played in the World Basketball Championships only three times: in Brazil in 1954 when it placed a historic third; Chile in 1959 when it landed eighth; and Puerto Rico in 1974 when it finished 13th.

* * *

For inquiries call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or easyCall 141-267284.

Salud solo derby champ

FOR the first time in many months, Winning Time-DVH of lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud hit pay dirt, emerging solo champion in the well-attended NCA 7-Cock Derby which ended Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Winning Time-DVH posted a perfect 7-0 score, sealing the championship when its fast and deadly Red Ace cock easily disposed off the hapless Grey of Buddy and Bob Geran in Fight No. 33. It was a well-deserved victory for Salud, a former PBA commissioner and now noted cocker-breeder who finally won a solo major derby crown at the Big Dome.

KING OF THE ROAD
Newly crowned "Adidas King of the Road" champion Allan Ballester (left) and runner-up Daud Mama flank Adidas trade & promo officer Goody Custodio while showing off their championship plate and medal won in the recent 10k race in Hong Kong.

Davenport, Seles advance

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona — Lindsay Davenport kept her touch while waiting to play in the State Farm Women's Tennis Classic. Davenport's match against Gala Leon Garcia was held up twice by rain but the world's No. 2 player remained in control and won 7-5, 6-2 Thursday night to move into the quarterfinals. Monica Seles also advanced by beating Cara Black 6-0, 6-3 earlier Thursday. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

'Schu' unhurt in accident

MELBOURNE, Australia—Ferrari driver Rubens Barrichello was the fastest in Friday's practice session for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix while teammate and world champion Michael Schumacher provided most of the excitement—on and off the track. Schumacher—who walked away from a serious-looking double flip in his car—was third-fastest when Italy's Jarno Trulli in his Jordan Honda took over second place after Schumacher's crash with three minutes left in the afternoon session. *AP*

Canlubang bets keep PAL Interclub crown

Bacolod's 10-title record tied by Luigi Yulo's Sweeties

PAGUNSAN celebrates. JESS YUSON

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

CEBU CITY—One record equalled. Next year's target: two records.

Canlubang retained the PAL Interclub crown yesterday without much challenge from CAP-Southwoods as it equalled Bacolod's 10 titles in the 54th edition of the nation's team golf championship.

Hardly had the Canlubang euphoria died down when the thought of scoring a third straight crown suddenly entered the mind of Luigi Yulo, the Sweeties' adroit team captain.

"We're happy to win again and, hopefully, we'll do it again next year to make it three in a row," said Yulo.

It did not occur—not yet, anyway—to him that with a victory next year, Canlubang will become the first to score three successive wins twice while also becoming the first to pocket 11 titles since the fabled event began in 1948 at Wack Wack.

Canlubang recorded its first triple from 1994 to 1996 to duplicate Bacolod's feat in 1963 to 1965, Aguinaldo's from 1988 to 1990 and Luisita's from 1991 to 1993.

But with a victory next year in Bacolod, Canlubang will become the winningest with 11 to shatter its deadlock with Bacolod with 10.

Canlubang coasted to victory yesterday with 127 at the Cebu Country Club as CAP-Southwoods could only submit 131 in the five-to-play, four-to-count tournament that rewards 3 points to a birdie, 2 to a par and 1 to a bogey.

Canlubang's final-day warriors were Juvic Pagunsan with 35, Solomon Gines with 34, Jun Cedo with 30 and Jose Ma. Hechanova with 28 for 127.

Scoring for CAP-Southwoods were Jerome Delariarte with 34, Artemio Murakami and Cookie La'O with 33s and Toru Nakajima with 31 for 131.

Canlubang totalled 527 (128-137-135-127) against Southwoods' 515 (112-138-134-131). Luisita was third (117-131-130-125=503).

The Sweeties' 12-point victory was fashioned out minus the expected last-day thrill as CAP-Southwoods could not produce the blows needed to overhaul Canlubang.

"We didn't expect this kind of victory," said Yulo. "I expected it to be tough because man for man, I thought Southwoods was stronger than us."

A tactical error in the fielding of players in Round 1 left CAP-Southwoods battered, bloodied and bewildered, a fact that Yulo acknowledged with dispatch.

"It all boiled down to Round 1," said Yulo. "After that *wala na*.'

He rued CAP-Southwoods' wasted opportunities.

"They were here two weeks ago yet," he said. "But probably, they took the course lightly."

He was referring to Club Filipino de Cebu, which turned out to be CAP-Southwoods' Edsa to use a modern-day lingo referring to that Metro Manila highway that triggered the downfall of both Marcos (1986) and Erap (2001).

CAP-Southwoods' puny 112 in Round 1 at Club Filipino de Cebu told it all.

Ranged against Canlubang's output of 128 that day, the Woodsmen's first-day deficit of 16 was simply too huge to overcome in the final three days.

In Rounds 2 and 3, CAP-Southwoods got nothing as Canlubang ably protected the gains it earned at Club Filipino de Cebu. Yesterday's round was a virtual walk in the park for the Sweeties.

"From the first time I saw Club Filipino, I knew the battle would be fought there," said Yulo. "That course was the key."

"What we lacked was maturity," said Bong Lopez, Southwoods' coach. "We are disappointed because we practiced hard."

Cebu CC (110-112-104-116=442) won the Founders Division over Negros (98-115-109-107=429), with Riviera (95-111-109-106=421) finishing third.

Apo (79-101-104-95=379) topped the Sportswriters Division over Iligan (75-105-99-100=379) via a tiebreak as Apo had 6 birdies against Iligan's 4 birdies. Team L.A. (85-88-103-102=378) was third over Camp Evangelista (98-84-97-92=371).

In the Friendship Division, San Juanico (99-68-79-71=317) beat Iloilo (82-76-80-67=305). Pittsburg was third (74-67-83-73=297).

Other results:

Championship—4th Wack Wack 470, Del Monte 464, Alabang 394, Brookeside 304, Lanang 303, Maharlika 295, Alta Vista 293, Greenhills 273, Sydney 262, Xiamen 257, Vancouver 249, Moffett Field 233, Japanese 229, Par Excellence 211, Paga-San Jose 208, Golfinos 200, Victorias 179.

Founders –4th Forest Hills 414, Pueblo de Oro 412, Manila Golf 408, John Hay 386, Bacolod 358, Davao 347, Villamor 338, Mt. Malindang 337, Navy 337, Pamplona 309, Bay Area 246.

Sportswriters—5th Intramuros 361, Leyte 356, Club Filipino 355, Crystal Spring 350, Capitol 327, Paoay 304, Zamboanga 301, Lumbia 294, Fil-Am 293, Baguio 286, Alliance 281, Guinhalaran 264, Brotherhood 241, Cotabato 229, Going Bananas 211, Riyadh Dirab 193, Washington DC 190, Seattle 189, Riyadh FGA 165, Hawaii 124.

Friendship—4th UP Tee Jots 293, British Columbia 292, Rolling Hills 270, Heritage 265, Sky West 212.

Dorothy's project

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CEBU CITY—In front of a slew of photographers, Dorothy Delasin hit an enormous tee shot on Thursday at the Cebu Country Club.

Nothing new there, really, except that Dorothy teed off from the men's blue and she was in a foursome with men that included Doming Duerme, the jolly tournament chair of the 54th PAL Interclub.

Easily, Dorothy outdrove them all, jet lag and all. She flew in from Hawaii to Manila on Wednesday and hopped into PAL's dawn flight Thursday for this boom city of newly constructed skyscrapers, massive malls and eateries, both fine-dining and catering to the masses.

She had barely slept a wink. But Dorothy, game and humble as always, checked in at her appointed 12:30 p.m. tee off time not wearing a glove but wearing a smile. She wore a white T-shirt and a cream pair of shorts.

"It's always nice to be back, especially because this is the land of my roots," she said minutes before she whacked the 220-plus yard shot on No. 1. "I luv it here."

Dorothy is back through PAL's generosity. Some six weeks back, she was in Manila to receive her PSA plum as the 2000 Athlete of the Year in glittering ceremonies at the Manila Pavilion. Cinnabon Rolls bought her business class tickets to include her father-coach, Sonny.

"Oh, she will never tire coming home," said Sonny, proudly wearing a white T-shirt with the Cinnabon logo. "*Dugong Pinoy iyan, e.*"

Sonny brought his family to the United States some 23 years ago. Dorothy was born in Texas 21 years ago.

She holds a three-year exemption on the US LPGA Tour after she scored a breakthrough win in the Giant Eagle Classic on her seventh tournament last year. At the end of the season, Dorothy captured rookie honors and a checkbook that totalled $339,000.

Despite a huge 40 percent tax cut that reduced her earnings to about $139,400, Dorothy still made good her promise to buy her family a house in Daly City. The 5-room bungalow was a dream come true for the Delasins (3 girls, 1 boy).

For, indeed, her heart is as big as her tee shot.

PAL financed her second homecoming for the year to set up the Dorothy Joy Delasin Foundation, a project which Dorothy hopes to help alleviate the plight of caddies, umbrella girls and tee boys.

"My wish is also to see them dream of big things," said Dorothy. "If some would want to take up computer courses, the Foundation would only be too glad to finance their schooling."

What a lady. So young and so caring already.

Cebu Gems ready to sparkle

TALENT plus experience equals good performance.

Coach Tonichi Yturri told the Inquirer last night that these are the traits most likely to carry the Cebu Gems to a lofty placing in the Metropolitan Basketball Association's fourth season.

"The acquisition of guys like Max Delantes, Peter Naron, Melvin Taguines and Willie Mejia has made us deeper," said Yturri. "Mas maganda ang blending ngayon."

The return of Fil-Am Mat Mitchell is another source of comfort for Yturri, who has beenfrustrated thrice in his bid to steer the Gems to the national title.

Other Gems whom Yturri expects to deliver when the MBA opens on June 3 are national players Stephen Padilla and Homer Se and hotshot Roy Lura.

"We've been practicing since Jan. 10 and I can say that the boys are blending well," said Yturri. "With the opening re-scheduled, however, I've reduced our scrimmages to thrice a week."

Yturri cited their game against the Philippine team, which they lost by one point recently, as a good gauge of their worthiness. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r-7:30 a.m.) on ESPN

NBA- Seattle Supersonics vs Indiana Pacers at 8 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN and Phoenix Suns vs San Antonio Spurs at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chinese National Basketball League, Semi-finals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: International Motorsport News 2001 at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

F1 Qualifying, Australian Grand Prix at 10 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

Motorsport Asia at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Genuity Championship, Second Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

BOXING: Friday Night Fights at 10:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

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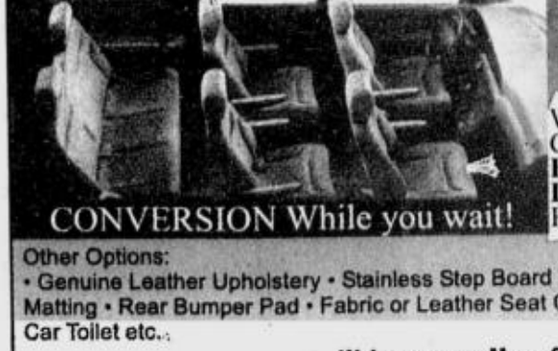

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ 'Terrorist' tries to bring grenade to mall A22

NOT DACER AND DRIVER

Burned bodies those of Silverio scion, cop

BY STELLA O. GONZALES

CAVITE police yesterday said the charred bodies found inside a burning car in Dasmariñas town last Wednesday were those of a grandson of Bulacan Rep. Ricardo Silverio and a dismissed Quezon City policeman.

John Silverio, 35, and Manuel Melendrez Jr., 32, were identified by their families, said a report by Senior Supt. Nestor Sanares, Cavite provincial director.

Supt. Manuel R. Gaerlan, chief of the Cavite provincial intelligence and investigation branch, said they were considering the drug trade as a possible motive for the killing.

He said reports gathered by police showed that the owner of the burned car, Marina R. Dizon, and her boyfriend Roberto Cunanan were known drug pushers.

BURNED BODIES/ A22

Arrest warrants issued against 9 cops in hazing

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE STA. Rosa, Laguna Municipal Trial Court yesterday ordered the arrest of the nine police instructors earlier charged with violating the Anti-Hazing Law in handling police trainees of the Special Action Force last month.

The nine officers were earlier relieved of their duties by Interior Secretary Jose Lina for allegedly subjecting their trainees to severe beatings and unusual hardships like rubbing crushed chili on their eyes and pouring a mixture of rubbing alcohol, soy sauce, chili, pepper and menthol liniment on the genitals.

The warrants were issued for the arrest of Police Officers 2 Randolf Magallanes and Joseph Pepito; Police Officers 1 Paulo Tobias, Rodulfo Justo, Ernesto Bautista and Eric Hilado; and three others identified only as Punel, Araneta and Angling.

Charges have been field against them by SAF trainees Ariel Dolor, Conrado Aniel and Joselito Lantano.

Sta. Rosa MTC Judge Zenaida Lubrica Galvez set bail of P40,000 for each accused.

Lina yesterday said the nine accused would also be subjected to administrative proceedings that could lead to their eventual dismissal from the service.

The alleged hazing was carried out on Feb. 23, the complainants' first day of training at the SAF training camp in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa.

Antipolo threatens to shut down Lorna T's 'dirty' market

BY AGNES E. DONATO AND LEAH SALTERIO

TOLENTINO

THE ANTIPOLO City government has threatened to shut down the market owned by a group that includes movie actress Lorna Tolentino for the alleged unsanitary practices in its slaughterhouse and wet section.

Councilor Eva Querubin, chair of the city council's market and slaughterhouse committee, gave the owners of the Cogeo Dry and Wet Market three days to explain why it should not be closed.

Querubin said the Cogeo market and four other establishments in barangays Pinugay, Sta. Cruz, San Jose and San Isidro were found unsanitary when a government team inspected them for mad

ANTIPOLO/ A22

Kris takes over 'Balitang K' slot

BY LEAH SALTERIO

AQUINO

KRIS Aquino will give up her daily morning show "Today With Kris" on ABS-CBN to host a new current affairs program, called "Balitang Kris," starting March 12.

"Balitang Kris" will take over the slot of Korina Sanchez's "Balitang K," from 5:30 to 6 p.m. daily.

Sanchez will anchor "TV Patrol," 6 to 6:30 p.m., taking over from Noli de Castro, who recently left the network to run for senator.

Henry Omaga-Diaz and a new recruit from ABS-CBN Davao, Aljo Bendijo, will join Sanchez on "TV Patrol."

"All the changes will take effect on March 12," said a network source.

KRIS TAKES/ A22

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Three men stabbed to death in Manila

By Jerome Aning

A CORN vendor who slapped a colleague, a man who pinched a drunk neighbor's cheek, and a beerhouse customer who was embraced by a "friend" were all stabbed dead in separate incidents in Manila before dawn yesterday.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban of the city police's homicide section identified them as Daniel Aday, 35, married, of Taft corner P. Ocampo Avenues, Malate; Paulito Miguel Bayle, 25, married, of Onyx Street, San Andres Bukid; and Fortunato Isip, 35, single, of Del Pan Extension, Tondo.

Aday was killed at around 11 p.m. after he allegedly slapped fellow corn vendor Elwin Atinta, police said.

Aday and Atinta were arguing over who between them was better at selling corn. The argument grew into a shoving match where Aday slapped Atinta, said SPO1 David Tuazon of the city police's homicide section.

Atinta ran home and told his elder brother Arnold, 22, what had happened.

Shortly after midnight, Arnold allegedly sneaked into Aday's stall and stabbed him once in the back while Aday was arranging his wares, police said.

Police are looking for Arnold.

In San Andres Bukid, Bayle was stabbed dead when he playfully pinched the cheeks of an ill-humored and very drunk neighbor at 12:10 a.m., police said.

SPO1 Benito Cabatbat said Cornelio Sevillano, 43, his nephew Mario, 23, both residents of Onyx Street, and two other unidentified men took turns in stabbing Bayle.

Police arrested the Sevillanos.

Cabatbat said Bayle and his wife Natividad were on their way home from a party when they met their neighbor Mario on Onyx Street.

Bayle playfully squeezed Mario's cheeks in greeting. But that only annoyed Mario who punched Bayle on the face. Soon the two were exchanging blows, police said.

Cornelio and the two other men joined Mario and ganged up on Bayle. One or two of the suspects pulled out daggers and stabbed Bayle.

Two hours later, Isip met an untimely death when a man came up to him, hugged him, then stabbed him dead inside the Buffalo Restaurant and Bar on Rizal Avenue corner Soler in Sta. Cruz.

SPO4 William Gondranios said Isip and his friend Christopher Apostol were drinking in the bar at about 2:30 a.m. when a man identified only as "Ulong" went to their table and put his arms around Isip.

Ulong was described to be between 30 and 35 years old. Apostol said he thought Ulong was Isip's friend and said the two even talked loud in each other's ears because of the loud music.

The witness then told police that Ulong abruptly left and Isip—his face contorted in pain—keeled over with blood spurting from his right side.

Apostol said he wanted to flee the scene along with the other customers but changed his mind and returned to Isip. He took the victim to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center where he died.

Drug-crazed man kills wife

By Alcuin Papa

A DRUG-CRAZED Erwin Lobongan thought his live-in partner wanted him dead. On Thursday, he decided to kill her first, police said.

SPO3 Willie Dalawangbayan of the Las Piñas Police Criminal Investigation Division said at about 4 p.m., Lobongan stabbed beautician Marlene Benjamin, 40, to death inside their house on Bohol Street, CAA Compound, Las Piñas City.

Dalawangbayan said Lobongan had not slept for four days because he had allegedly taken shabu.

Lobongan became paranoid and thought his wife and other people were out to kill him.

That afternoon, Lobongan reportedly got a kitchen knife and stabbed Benjamin in different parts of the body, police said.

Concerned neighbors called the police and took the victim to the Philippine General Hospital where she died.

Lobongan was arrested shortly after the killing and is now detained at the Las Piñas jail.

Lobongan will be charged with murder in a Las Piñas court.

Drunken policeman, pal nabbed

A DRUNKEN policeman and his friend were arrested yesterday for allegedly molesting a 19-year-old waitress and creating a scene inside a videoke bar in Caloocan City.

SPO1 Mario Galindez, 45, of the Northern Police District Office Intelligence Unit, was charged with acts of lasciviousness, grave threat, unjust vexation, coercion and violation of the Omnibus Election Code before the Caloocan Prosecutor's Office.

PO1 Rolando Domingo said Galindez and his friend Cornelio Maestro Jr., of Sto. Niño, Bulacan, were both drunk when they allegedly made a pass at waitress Marilou Santos of Welcome Palace Health Videoke Club and Restaurant at about 4 a.m. yesterday.

Santos, of Parola Compound, Tondo, told police that Galindez even threatened to shoot her.

Santos was forced to hide inside a room while her co-workers called the police.

Five lawmen from the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 5 arrested both suspects, who are now detained at the Caloocan police headquarters.

Christian V. Esguerra

Not contributing to MMDA is illegal, says Abalos

By Agnes E. Donato

IF MAYORS of Metro Manila would stop remitting their monthly monetary contribution to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), they would be breaking the law, according to MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

This was how Abalos yesterday reacted to reports that 12 of the 17 Metro Manila mayors had met in secret and agreed to discontinue paying their contributions to the MMDA.

The move is allegedly a protest against recent policy changes made by Abalos.

"It is their obligation to contribute to the MMDA because that is what the law mandates them to do," Abalos said. "They might as well have a separate and independent state if they would not abide by the law.

"The most they can do is call for the abolition of the MMDA," he added.

Each city or town contributes five percent of its internal revenue allotment to the MMDA, as mandated by Republic Act No. 7924, which provided for the creation of the agency.

The mayors, believed to be closely associated with disgraced President Estrada, reportedly felt there was no use contributing to the MMDA after Abalos had virtually passed to them the burden of solid waste management and traffic rules enforcement, two of the major functions of the MMDA.

Abalos explained he did not have any other choice but to seek a more active participation of the local executives in solving the garbage problem because legal cases were preventing the MMDA from pursuing its supposed projects.

"I cannot just let the garbage rot on the streets and not do anything," he said. "I had to come up with solutions and I thought that was the best we could do for now."

He said he was not aware of any dissent from members of the Metro Manila Mayors Council.

"I want to have a harmonious relationship with the mayors as much as possible," he said. "It is not just because we are obliged to work together, but because I want us to have good working relations."

Abalos recently transferred to the local police the responsibility of traffic rules enforcement in Metro Manila streets. He explained the local police would know better how to handle the problem in their place.

In a garbage summit in January, Abalos also asked the local executives to implement the waste management scheme in their localities and put up their own ecological centers.

After he failed to deliver on his promise to provide a solution to Metro Manila's garbage problem, Abalos asked the local executives to implement at their level the government's garbage segregation scheme.

Citing Republic Act No. 9003, which, among others, provided the MMDA with the power to penalize local officials if they did not enforce the waste management law, Abalos also warned local government officials on Feb. 12 that they would be held accountable if they failed to implement the scheme.

'Shabby' word irks general

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

RETIRED Maj. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, former Marine commandant, said he had been cleared in the investigation of the supposed missing P64.9 million that ousted Navy chief Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong referred to.

Wong accused Ruiz of being responsible for the supposedly missing funds. The amount would have been used for the relocation of the Marine headquarters in Ternate, Cavite, according to military documents.

Ruiz said he would welcome a second probe of the alleged scam.

* * *

Ruiz, who later became commander of the Western Command based in Palawan, got hurt by Wong's insinuation that he was corrupt.

But what hurt him more was Wong calling him "shabby," during a dialogue with Marine officers. "I am again reminded of a shabby Marine officer *(referring to Ruiz—RT)*," Wong was quoted as telling the Marine officers. "He was given funds to make roads. Where are the roads?"

"Shabby" as used in the military has various meanings, from incompetent to inefficient to corrupt. It is a very strong word, especially to a proud Marine.

"How dare that fellow call me shabby," said Ruiz, a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1963. "He's lucky I wasn't there when he said that because I would have kicked him in the butt."

Ruiz was called *"siga"* (toughie) by former subordinates because of his unorthodox method of disciplining his men.

Wong, who belongs to PMA Class 1969, is very much junior to Ruiz.

* * *

The Office of the Ombudsman, which has been tasked to investigate Wong's allegations within the Philippine Marine Corps, should not confine its investigation to the corps.

The Ombudsman should include the Armed Forces Logistics Command (Logcom), which arms soldiers in the field with weapons and other battle equipment.

Some Logcom officers allegedly collect big commissions from civilian suppliers who are favored with contracts. The cut for these corrupt officers results in substandard equipment reaching soldiers in combat zones.

* * *

President Macapagal said she wouldn't allow her son Mikey Arroyo to run for a political position in Pampanga.

But Mikey, 32, is running for vice governor. To assure his victory, he's running with movie actor Lito Lapid, who's seeking reelection as governor.

If the President can't be trusted on simple promises, how can she be trusted on big issues?

* * *

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina recently ordered a campaign against *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game that caused the downfall of former President Erap.

But how can the campaign be effective when one of Lina's relatives is allegedly involved in *jueteng* ? Very reliable sources in the illegal gambling circle say Lina's relative is a partner of one Romy Pamatmat, who operates in Laguna.

Is that why *jueteng* is very much around despite Lina's order? Gambling lords apparently consider the DILG chief's order a joke.

SPO2 Santiago Hermoso of the Antipolo police's Cogeo sub-station should be made to undergo a psychiatric examination. The guy needs professional help badly.

Four teenagers, aged 14 to 17, complained to me in "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" that Hermoso forced them to engage a mentally ill detainee in torrid kissing.

The boys were arrested for vagrancy and taken to the Cogeo sub-station.

Hermoso, according to the youth, forced the 14-year-old boy to masturbate the mentally ill detainee.

I brought the boys' complaint to Supt. Luis Ticman who immediately placed Hermoso under arrest.

* * *

Senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is now reaping karma for his past misdeeds. What he did to some subordinates when he was still Philippine National Police chief is now being done to him.

PNP chief Leandro Mendoza has ordered the investigation of seven star-rank PNP officers and other senior officers for allegedly campaigning for Lacson.

Mendoza said the PNP personnel should not engage in politics.

When he was still the PNP's top honcho, Lacson persecuted officers who were closely identified with defeated presidential candidate Joe de Venecia even if the officers were very efficient.

As Lacson's erstwhile boss used to say, "weather-weather *lang*," Lacson had his time; now, it's the turn of the people he allegedly oppressed.

He should have taken heed of the saying: Treat some people nicely on your way up because these are the very same people you will meet on your way down.

* * *

SPO3 Eulalio Abad and SPO4 Herman Matillano, of the PNP Airport Security Group, have appropriated for themselves the job of the customs police. They apprehended a shipment which came from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport which was already cleared by the Bureau of Customs.

The shipment was later released because its documents were in order.

Why don't Abad and Matillano just focus on guarding the airport against terrorists?

IRONED ERIK ARAZAS

Manila police are looking for Rolando Calma, 38, who allegedly "ironed" the palms of his stepson Gerald, 10. The boy said Calma, a driver of the Bureau of Lands, caught him removing a sticker from the windshield of his car on Feb. 28. Calma made him kneel on rock salt, with his arms outstretched, and then pressed a hot flatiron against his palms. Neighbors brought the boy to a clinic and barangay officials of San Andres Bukid accompanied him to the Western Police District. *Jerome Aning*

Asistio son arrested for drugs, rob

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS IF his fierce rival, reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, in Caloocan's mayoral race is not already giving Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio enough trouble, one of his son's unbecoming behavior is causing the solon a major pain.

Asistio's son Luisito, also called "Pachot," 35, was arrested on Thursday on suspicion that he robbed a Chinese businesswoman and that he had illegal drugs in his possession.

Police yesterday filed charges against the young Asistio before the Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office for the alleged crimes. He was also found with two plastic packets supposedly containing methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

But Asistio is now out of jail. He posted a P110,000 bail for his temporary release.

PO3 Rolando Domingo said Asistio and three unidentified companions went to the house of businesswoman Lucita Genova-Te, 41, on 10th Avenue, about 2:30 p.m. on Thursday allegedly to extort money.

When Te refused, Asistio and his companions took instead a pedicab, three pushcarts and empty bottles, all worth P19,800, police said.

About 6 p.m. the same day, Asistio's group went back to the house of Te, who then sought police assistance.

Police arrested Asistio and his companions and brought them to the Caloocan Police Headquarters. The sachets of shabu were found during interrogation.

The younger Asistio's latest arrest may prove to be another blow to his father's mayoral bid in the May elections against Malonzo. He already has a pending criminal case in Caloocan for shooting his 52-year-old landlord in his apartment in November last year.

Another Asistio son, Peting, had also given the father headaches after he was shot over a foiled drug deal in Caloocan early last year. Police later ruled the incident was a rubout attempt.

'Terrorist' tries to bring grenade to mall

A MAN was arrested Thursday night in Makati City while in possession of a grenade that he tried to bring into a shopping mall.

Ali Khan Abanhar, 26, a resident of C-5 Road, Fort Bonifacio, Makati, was arrested around 7 p.m. Thursday at the Guadalupe Mall along Edsa in Barangay Nuevo, Makati, police said.

Police said Jetro Morales, 27, of the Octagon Security Agency who was assigned to guard the main entrance of the mall, was inspecting bags and frisking males when he noticed Abanhar acting strangely.

Morales searched Abanhar carefully and found the grenade in his waist.

Police immediately arrested Abanhar. They are still looking into the possibility that he meant to explode the grenade.

Police are also trying to determine if he is a member of any terrorist group.

Last Dec. 30, Metro Manila was rocked by a rash of bombings which hit the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the Light Rail Transit and shopping malls. *Alcuin Papa*

Antipolo threatens to shut down . . .

(From page A21)

cow and foot and mouth disease.

The inspecting team also found that the cows and pigs being slaughtered in these markets failed to pass the inspection conducted by agents of the National Meat Inspection Commission (WIMC).

"It is not confirmed if the slaughtered pigs and cows being sold are safe for human consumption," Querubin said.

Elena Orosa, president of the Cogeo Market Venture Corp. (CMVC), said Tolentino is not directly involved in the market operations since she is only a minority shareholder.

Orosa told the Inquirer that her group checked with Antipolo's licensing department and found out there was no complaint filed against the Cogeo market.

Orosa said the Cogeo market slaughterhouse is only for chicken and not for pigs and cows.

She said the other big investors in the CMVC are Bobby Leung, Alex Cruz and Baby Javier.

"It's very unfair that she (Tolentino) is being used by (Querubin)," Orosa said.

She said the Antipolo City Hall would issue a certification on Monday to prove that CMVC is not unsanitary and that there are no complaints against the market.

Another CMVC board member said they consulted a lawyer and were thinking of filing a case against Querubin.

Burned bodies those of Silverio scion, cop

(From page A21)

The handcuffed bodies were found inside a burning Toyota Tamaraw Revo at Airmen's Village in Barangay Sampaloc 3, Dasmariñas at 4 a.m. Wednesday. It was initially feared that the bodies were that of missing public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito.

Gaerlan said the two men were first stabbed— Melendrez thrice and Silverio seven times-before the car was set on fire. The burning was apparently done to cover up any evidence and fingerprints left by the suspects.

Investigation showed that Silverio fetched Melendrez from the latter's house in Pasig City at 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Sanares' report said Melendrez was a dismissed policeman who was assigned to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame. The victim was identified by his brother PO2 Manuel Melendrez III through the Rolex watch found on the victim's right wrist.

Cavite policemen who went to Dizon's house in Navotas found out that she had not been living there since last year. Her younger brother, a Boyet Robles, told police that sometime in 1999, Marina left him the Toyota Revo when she was confined in a private drug rehabilitation clinic.

After Marina was released from rehabilitation, she gave the vehicle to her boyfriend Cunanan, of Olongapo City, a suspected big-time drug pusher.

In May 2000, Marina was supposedly confined at the Camp Bagong Diwa Rehabilitation Center in Taguig, but verification with the center showed that she was not admitted there.

Police reports said residents of Airmen's Village heard two successive loud explosions at about 4 a.m. Wednesday, prompting barangay tanod Lorenzo Alvaran to check. He found the burning car on a dirt road, about 60 meters south of Governor's Drive and 100 meters from the nearest residential area.

Police later recovered nine golf clubs, a Rolex men's wristwatch, a partially burned commemorative car plate (789-Y 1st District Bulacan), two sets of handcuffs, and an improvised car plate with number 8, 3rd District of Bulacan.

Silverio's grandfather, Ricardo, is congressman of Bulacan's third district.

Kris takes over 'Balitang K' slot

(From page A21)

Karen Davila will go solo on the late-evening news, "Headlines," at 10:30 p.m.

The early morning tandem of Christine Bersola and Julius Babao on "Alas Singko y Medya" will take over the 11 a.m.-12 noon slot of "Today With Kris" in a yet untitled show, said the source.

"Alas Singko y Medya" will be hosted by Sheryl Cosim, Cherie Mercado and other young news talents.

"Balitang Kris" is the first merger of the ABS-CBN news and entertainment departments.

"Kris loves the change," the source said. "She hopes to be able to transform herself into a current affairs host."

The move is also said to be a promotion of sorts for Aquino, who will have a bigger audience in the slot that immediately comes before "TV Patrol."

Aquino reportedly has an offer to also host a daily morning radio program on dzMM to fill the 6-8 a.m. slot vacated by De Castro.

"I'm still considering that," Aquino said. "Eventually, I may also do radio. But in the meantime, I'll concentrate on the new show because it has a totally different concept from my daily morning show."

Lea Salonga live concert now available on VCD format

SALONGA

"LEA Salonga Live!," the double platinum CD release that chronicles Lea Salonga's musical concert at the PICC, just got better. It is now available on VCD for your viewing and listening pleasure.

It will be recalled that in June 2000, Lea's first-ever live album was released in a double volume CD and cassette. This time, you don't just simply listen to her, you get to watch her, too, in the new VCD release.

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The VCD release exclusively distributed by BMG Records Philippines is available at record bars and music stores.

Lea has recorded a number of albums for BMG Records, including the multi-platinum selling "By Heart" and "So in Love."

Last December, she also released her first Christmas album.

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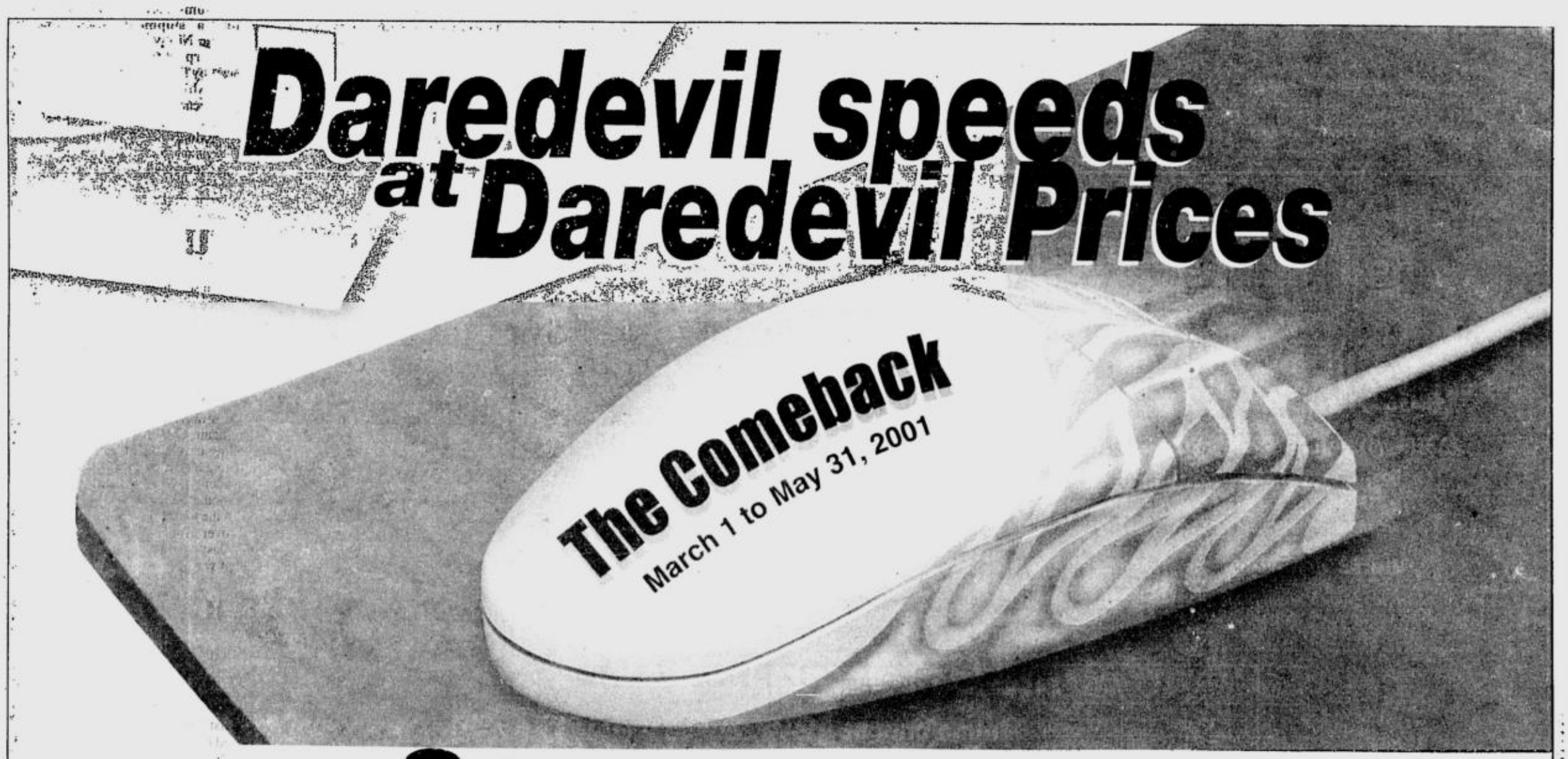

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Ogie launches album in noontime show

MULTI-AWARDED pop singer Ogie Alcasid has always been known for having his hit songs turned into movie titles and theme songs.

Who can forget his songs which later became inspiration to unforgettable movies such as "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?," "Mahal Kita, Walang Iba" and "Nandito Ako" to name a few.

But what Ogie has not done is to record popular movie theme songs and turn them into his own.

"I made a long list of my favorite movie themes and carefully chose them to record for my new album," he says.

Actually, the idea came about when Ogie's composition for his good friend, Regine Velasquez, was turned into a movie and became one of the biggest box-office hits last year. The song, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," became a monster hit for Regine.

Ogie wanted to record his own version of the song and the idea of making an album of movie theme songs was born.

The result is "Movie Moments," a collection of classic movie themes.

Selections in the album under Ogie's record label, MCA Universal, "Moment By Moment," an Yvonne Eliman original from the 1978 Universal movie of the same title which starred John Travolta and Lily Tomlin; "For All We Know," the 1970 Academy award-winning theme song popularized by The Carpenters from the movie "Lovers and Other Strangers."

Also in the compilation is "What Will They Say?," the Paul Williams composition from "The Boy in the Plastic Bubble," which starred John Travolta.

Tomorrow, March 4, Ogie launches "Movie Moments" in his top-rating Sunday show, SOP," 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. on GMA-7.

At 4 p.m., Ogie will proceed to Tower Records in Glorietta, Makati for a mini-showcase and autograph signing.

Ogie will also go to other branches of Tower Records for the launch.

On March 7, Wednesday, Ogie goes to Tower Records in Robinson's Place Malate and on March 10, Saturday, Tower Records in Alabang Town Center.

ALCASID

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1 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
2 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
4 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
5 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
6 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
7 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
8 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
3 DTS	HANNIBAL
4 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
6 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BLONDIE
7 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
8 DOLBY SURROUND	WOMEN ON TOP
9 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
10 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
4 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
5 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
8 DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
9 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10 DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
11 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
12 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1 DOLBY DIGITAL	WOMAN ON TOP
2 DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
3 DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
4 DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
6 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
8 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
9 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
11 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
12 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR. 8820950

1 ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1 DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
2 DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	HOSTAGE
4 DTS	HANNIBAL
5 DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
6 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5 DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
6 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
7 DTS	HANNIBAL
8 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10 DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
12 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE

SM SOUTHMALL 8060888 • 8060782

1 ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2 ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
4 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5 ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
7 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
8 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
9 ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
10 ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

TUTUBAN CENTER 2614302

1 ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BLONDIE

SM CEBU 2313876

1 DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2 ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3 ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
4 ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
5 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT

SM ILOILO 3209422

1 ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2 ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
3 ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
5 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
8 ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
2 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
3 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
5 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
6 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE

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1 HOSTAGE	1 CAST AWAY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 PAY IT FORWARD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 HANNIBAL in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	1 HANNIBAL THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 HANNIBAL	2 WOMAN ON TOP in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 HANNIBAL in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 HANNIBAL in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 PAY IT FORWARD in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 102 DALMATIANS	3 HANNIBAL THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 FAMILY MAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 PAY IT FORWARD in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 CAST AWAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 OBJECT OF OBSESSION	4 TIGERLAND (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage	4 WOMAN ON TOP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 HOSTAGE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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6	

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2	BLONDIE
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ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	BLONDIE
QUEZON-1	HANIBAL
REMAR	HOSTAGE
REMAR-2	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
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OCEAN SUPERAMA	TUHOG
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CINEMA-2	THE CASTLE OF SAND
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
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CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
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CINEMA-3	TUHOG
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'TUHOG'd
A mockery, a celebration of what we love and hate in Philippine movies

By Paul Daza

REVIEW

"TUHOG," the controversial film from Regal Films, gets my vote as one of the finest Filipino movies I've seen for quite some time.

Being shown two months after sexually explicit footage was deleted voluntarily by the producers, "Tu-hog" remains a perceptive, award-worthy film, even though director Jeffrey Jeturian believes his work has lost some of its bite.

"Tuhog" is a very original take on the differences that arise between a traumatic, "true" story of incest and the commercialized, exploitative film it inspires. "Tuhog" makes fun of local cinematic clichés and chastises our filmmakers for abusing their artistic licenses, particularly when they are making a true-to-life motion picture.

After "Tuhog," I will never be able to look at another film inspired by real events in the same way again.

The first time I saw the film was at a free screening of the uncut version in the UP Film Center in December. The second time was at the commercial run that began last Wednesday. This was the mangled version.

The UP screening was definitely a more enjoyable experience because the theater was jampacked with film students and show biz insiders who understood what Jeturian's film was all about. They would laugh at all the right places and suddenly be quiet during key moments.

The paying audience I saw the film with Wednesday was harder to read. For one thing, approximately 90 percent of those who occupied the half-full theater were males. They didn't laugh at any of the jokes. Indeed, they didn't make any sort of noise during the entire film.

If they paid to see the breasts of Ina Raymundo or Klaudia Koronel, they may have been disappointed because the approved version of the film had so many cuts. I felt like a moviegoer during the MTRCB reign of chairpersons Manoling Morato and Etta Mendez. There were still breasts, butts, and nipples every ten minutes or so, but the cuts jarred the film's flow.

This time though, no one can blame the cuts on the MTRCB. All the MTRCB is culpable for is the "X" rating it gave Jeturian's director's cut. The six scenes that were shortened to get a more favorable "R" rating were done voluntarily by Regal Films executives.

Jeturian, however, feels that his producers took out so much material that one of his film's main premises was compromised: How can one make a movie about how obsessed our filmmakers and moviegoers are with female breast exposure without showing those very mammary glands?

Poor Jeturian is the victim of bad timing, pure and simple. If "Tuhog" had just been made and shown before the uproar over "Talong" and "Burlesk Queen Ngayon" forced the MTRCB to be stricter with male and female nudity, he would surely be reaping the benefits of an ultra-rare occurrence in local show biz: an unqualified critical and commercial success.

Fortunately, "Tuhog" has far more going for it than sex scenes. If you love local movies and the craft and craziness that go into the making of a Filipino film, try to see "Tuhog" while it's in moviehouses.

Scriptwriter Armando Lao deserves a Best Screenplay trophy this awards season for a truly original script which mocks and celebrates what we love and hate about local movies.

In "Tuhog," Lao skewers absurd movie titles, didactic Christian speeches, glaring plot holes, and redundant Greek choruses—to hilarious effect.

Jeturian's visualization of Lao's cock-eyed tribute to the conventions of local cinema confirms that they are a director-writer tandem working in complete sync. I had wicked fun seeing Jeturian "borrow" the trademark shots of acclaimed directors like Carlos Siguion-Reyna and Peque Gallaga.

If you have a higher-than-average interest in films, you'll also have fun seeing how Jeturian contrasts the "real" scenes with Ina Raymundo as a shy Bulacan lass who is raped by her grandfather, with the "reel" scenes starring Klaudia Koronel as Raymundo's silver screen equivalent.

In Raymundo's world, the sky is blinding white and her suitor walks around with a carabao. In the cinematic translation, the sky is always orange and the boyfriend's animal of choice is an adorable, overfed white pony.

The cast, which also includes Irma Adlawan and Dante Rivero, is uniformly excellent. One performer, however, goes beyond even her normal standard of excellence: Jaclyn Jose, who plays the mother of Koronel in the bastardized film of Raymundo's story, titled "Hayok sa Laman."

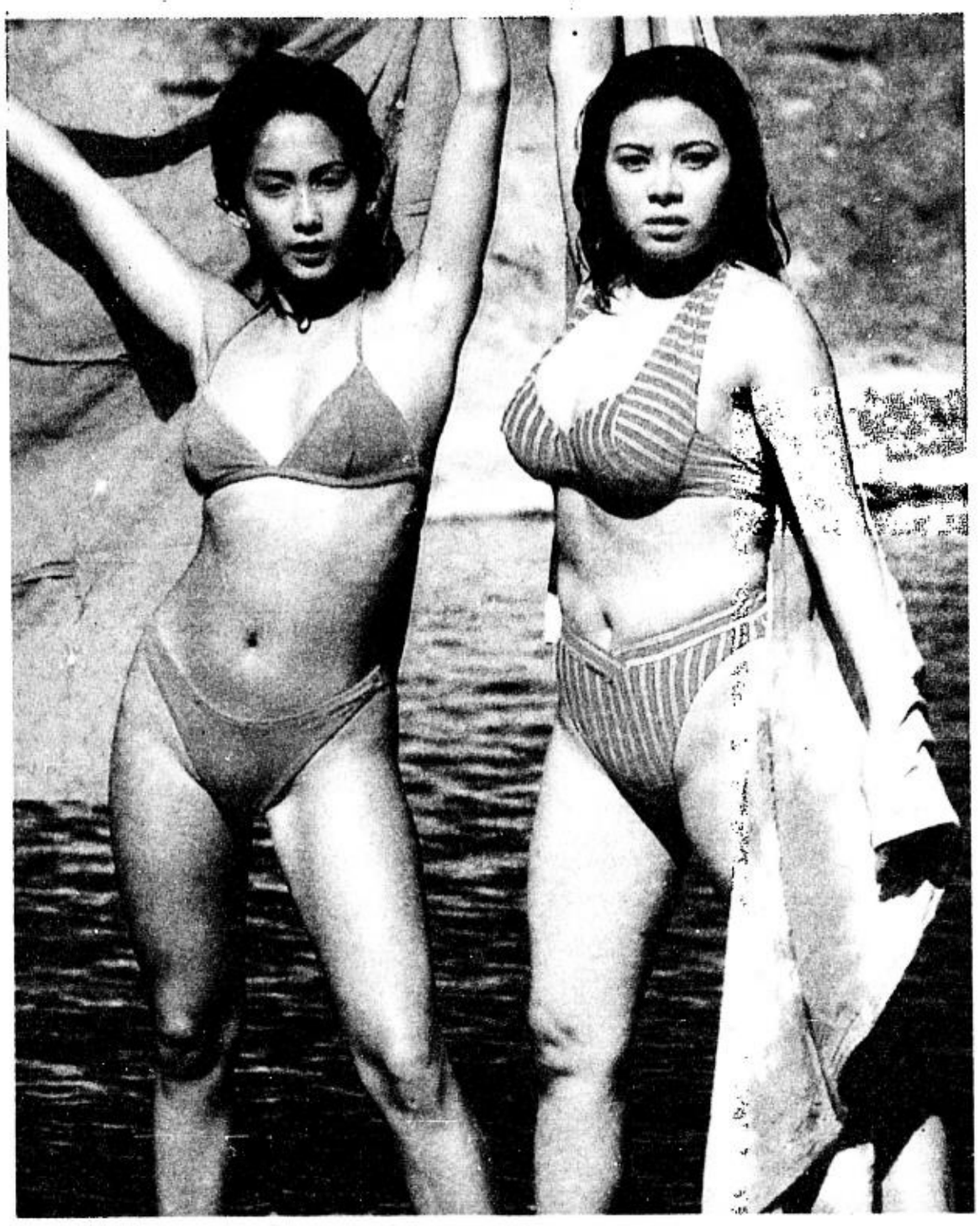
As Irma Adlawan's cinematic alter-ego, Jaclyn Jose is the only member of the movie-within-the-movie who lets on that she *knows* she's in an exploitation film.

The beauty of Jose's work is that she adds a subtle layer of bad acting to her performance. She seems to only be giving the role what little it demands from her.

Since the script for "Hayok Sa Laman" is awful, she'll turn in a performance worthy of a B-movie actress. Just in the way Ms Jose holds a gas lamp to her face and the way she tilts her head in two scenes had me in stitches. She's like Robert de Niro in "Analyze This" and "Meet The Parents," spoofing the very roles which made her famous during the early part of her career.

I'd love to see Ms Jose get another Best Supporting Actress trophy from the credible award-giving bodies for her role in "Tuhog."

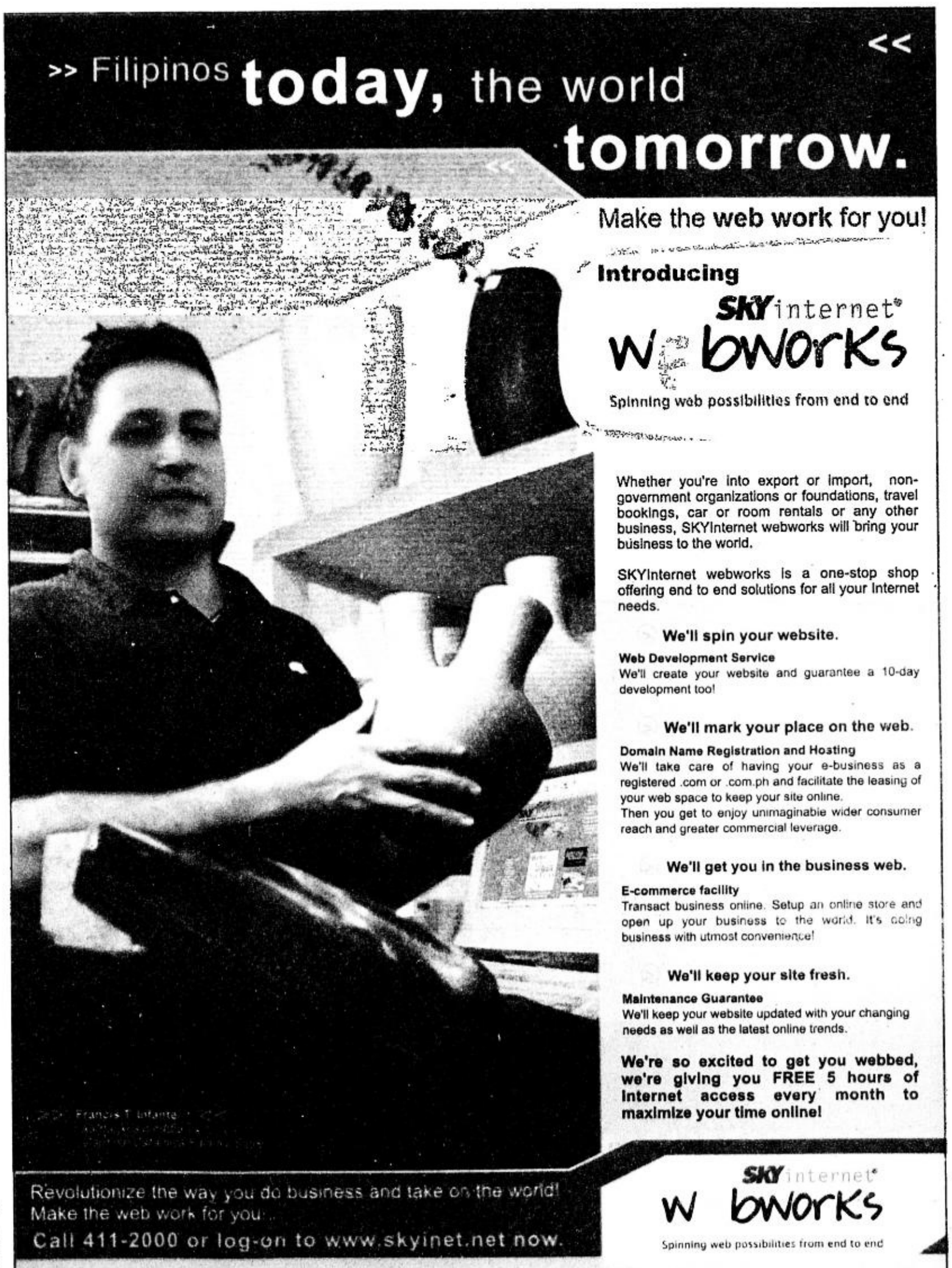
They could also do a lot worse than give the film major awards like Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay. The only question is, is "Tuhog" a 2000 or a 2001 release?



REAL AND REEL. Ina Raymundo and Klaudia Koronel play the same woman

AGA, JOYCE TEAM UP IN NEW SITCOM

For seven years, Aga Muhlach made viewers laugh and swoon as the handsome resident Doc Aga in "Oki Doki Doc." Now, the actor dons a security guard uniform in the new sitcom, "Da Body en da Guard," which teams him up with sexy actress Joyce Jimenez. It premieres 8:30 tonight on ABS-CBN. Also starring are Roderick Paulate, Gina Pareño, Anita Linda, Bearwin Meily, Bonggoy Manahan, John Prats, Ayko Morales, Jiro Manio, Joni Eunice Tan and introducing Patricia Ismael.



Actor should be man enough to acknowledge his baby with 'colegiala'

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN an actress gets pregnant or is suspected to be pregnant, it is a major show biz issue. No matter how hard the actress tries to evade public scrutiny by giving birth abroad, the information always leaks somehow.

But when an actor gets a girl pregnant, especially if the girl is not from show biz, they can get away with it if they want to. Actors come up with flimsy alibis such as, "How can I be sure it's mine?" Or, "We just had a one-night stand." Or, "She's just a fan trying to ride on my popularity," ad nauseam.

So what should a hapless girl do especially when she has no access to anyone in the biz? Who would believe her if she just popped out of nowhere? If an actor doesn't have the balls to admit that he is the father, how can a girl convince people that she's telling the truth?

Of course, this happens even out of show biz. But matters are compounded in the biz because people are more inclined to believe a famous actor than an unknown woman.

Take the case of this child (?) actor and a *colegiala*. The actor has shrugged off rumors that he already has a baby. Almost everyone took his word for it except people in the know. The girl's best friend confirmed to me that the actor has a lovechild with the *colegiala*.

Here's the story behind the story.

The *colegiala* was an incoming senior when she found out that she was pregnant so she had to quit school. To appease the girl's parents, the actor apologized and promised to fulfill his obligations as a father.

They thought he was sincere but the actor did a disappearing act. Since the girl comes from a decent family, her parents did not run after the actor even if they had every right to do so. The girl's parents decided to send her to the US and Canada to avoid a scandal.

After two months, the girl went through an emotional turmoil because she's not used to being away from her family. She flew back to the Philippines. She gave birth to a healthy baby girl on Jan 3, 2001.

Still no sign of the actor. He did not even bother to call and check on the baby. The girl is not asking for financial support. Her family is wealthy enough to take care of the baby.

It's not the money. It's the principle. The girl just hopes that the actor would stop lying and be man enough to admit that he's the real father of the baby. If the actor does not appreciate the existence of his beautiful baby girl, he should at least acknowledge it.

Is he out to victimize more pretty young things?

Boy toy

INSIDERS are bewildered at the fast rise of this young actor. He has the looks, all right, but he still has a lot to learn about acting. Many other new faces can act better than he but they are not given enough exposure.

Talk has it that a top-rating soap opera would be axed to give way to the actor's own drama show. It would not seem so bad if it is a variety show because then he won't have to act at all.

How did he manage to get such good breaks in so short a time? Well, in the biz sometimes it's not really what you know but who you know that matters. Sad but true.

As an insider says, "Don't even wonder why. He's the flavor of the month *kaya bongga ang* career *niya ngayon.*" Talk insists that the actor is the current boy toy of a very powerful gay in the biz, who is said to have been devastated after things went awry between him and his No. 1 protégeé.

Will the new boy toy surpass the popularity of the ex-talent?

Just asking

NOW that **Paolo Bediones** has dared to pose bold for Metro magazine, will he be open to doing sexy movies? The ever prim and proper TV host must have shocked his fans with his centerfold shot. Wonder if Paolo's daring move would gain him more following or turn off fans who prefer his wholesome boy-next-door image?

Is it true that **Gelli de Belen** snubbed **Vanessa del Bianco** when they bumped into each other in the corridors of ABS-CBN? Still an offshoot of the wornout issue about **John Estrada** (married to Gelli's sis **Janice**) and Vanessa? I've always known Gelli to be so cool. If ever she really did not greet Vanessa perhaps it was to avoid any talk. Besides, if they're not that close and they were both rushing to their respective shows, why bother to make *beso-beso* just for the heck of it? That would be so contrived! Down with typical show biz behavior!

Knowing **Pops Fernandez**, she would only laugh off the rumors that she and **Troy Montero** would tie the knot soon. Just because **Aga Muhlach** (who was linked to Pops) and **Charlene Gonzales** (who was linked to Troy) are getting married soon does not necessarily mean that Pops and Troy are getting hitched, too. Pops is still enjoying her new-found freedom so marriage is definitely last on her agenda.

BEDIONES

Ina Raymundo has said that she would marry her Canadian boyfriend after she gives birth to their baby. People are wondering, though, why Ina does not want to get married even in civil rites first so that her baby wouldn't be born out of wedlock. They can just have a church wedding later on.

For feedback, e-mail *watering hole2000@yahoo.com.*

'Baduy' artists sweep Baguio crowd

BY GOBLETH MOULIC
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Some may call their music *baduy*, *chaka* or *bakya*. But if it means big bucks, sold out hits and instant fame, who cares about what others may think of these "ugly" labels?

There must be something about sentimental singer Mae Rivera, all-boy band Jeremiah and upcoming recording artist Rea Valle that drove more than 3,000 Baguio residents, students and tourists to Burnham Park's Melvin Jones grandstand here to watch them during last week's Baguio Flower Festival.

Expressing doubts

Top officials of the Manila Broadcasting Corp., who brought the artists together to end the Panagbenga 2001 here on Sunday, were initially nervous, expressing doubts whether they could muster a big crowd because of other bands scheduled to perform that night in the city.

On Session Road, Passage Band, which was sponsored by Smart Zed and local FM radio K Lite, was entertaining crowds. At Burnham Park's Rose Garden, 90s band icon Eraserheads, rock band Siakol, singer Aliyah and comedienne Marissa Sanchez were also holding their concert courtesy of Bombo Radyo Philippines and Star FM.

But partygoers—most of them belonging to the C-D-E classes or the so-called *bakya* crowd—preferred watching Rivera, Jeremiah and Valle instead and practically ignored the Passage Band and Eraserheads.

If the audience's deafening cheers and warm applause were to be the gauge, then Rivera, Jeremiah and Valle—who described themselves as sentimental pop singers—have indeed won the hearts of the masses.

National anthem

Rivera, the voice behind the phenomenal hit "Arayyy," which has become the national anthem of sort in beerhouses and videoke bars, was thrilled when the crowd went wild the moment she went on stage.

"Arayyy" was so popular that film producers had used it as a title and soundtrack of a bold movie shown last year.

Rivera told the INQUIRER that she carved a niche in the local recording industry because of her being *baduy*.

Unknown to many, this diminutive singer, who can titillate the crowd with her seductive voice, was once a ghost singer employed by several recording outfits.

She was the voice in various minus-one tapes peddled in local record bars, according to her talent manager-composer Benjie Carreon.

After "Arayyy" consistently topped the radio charts last year, Rivera became a household name.

"*Dito mas maraming pera* (Here, I can earn more money). I know from the very beginning that I would be called *baduy* by some sectors because of my song. I am not offended by that stereotype. *Dito ako kumikita* (I earn by doing this thing)," she said after wowing the crowd with her hit "Sabi Mo Binata Ka."

"I thought I would be a ghost singer forever. But my manager asked me to be patient as stardom would depend on timing. *Kung hindi sumikat ang* first song *ko, tapos na ang* career *ko* (Had my first song flopped, then my career's finished). *Binuhay namin ang* jukebox singers (We revived the careers of jukebox singers)," she said.

Rivera, who reminds people of singer Eva Eugenio, who sang the classic "Tukso," said it was a wise career move to join the *baduy* bandwagon.

"*Yun ang bago ngayon. Kaya bago ka mawala sa eksena, kailangan maging sikat ka sa kanta mo.* Once you become popular, you can now experiment on other types of songs," she said.

The quartet Jeremiah—composed of Olan Crizaldo, Piwee Polintan, Froi Calixto and Symon Soler—echoed Rivera's sentiment, saying singing Filipino pop songs has brought them more fame and fortune.

Through their original compositions that sold thousands of copies nationwide, they claimed to have helped revive the sagging OPM (Original Pilipino Music) industry.

Jeremiah, one of the popular talents of Star Records, was behind the hit songs "Nanghihinayang," and "Bakit Ka Iiyak." They bagged third place when they interpreted Vehnee Saturno's orginal composition "Ganyan Ako" in the 2000 Metropop Song Festival.

They also performed hits in the soundtracks of youth-oriented movies like "Hey Babe," "Esperanza" and "Gimik the Movie."

Calixto and Soler said they were unfazed by the entry of foreign artists, like boy bands Westlife and Backstreet Boys, because they have already gained a number of followers.

Since Jeremiah conquered the local music scene with their debut album "Heart and Soul" in 1998, young Filipinos have started to love their repertoire which contains original Tagalog compositions.

Plus factor

"*Iba ang tunog namin* (We sound different). Our songs are mostly ballad and sentimental. We are labeled *baduy* because the C-D-E crowd patronizes our music. But we don't really mind. That's actually a plus factor for us," Soler, a former child actor and the most popular member of Jeremiah, said.

Rivera shared this view.

"Before, Filipino artists were relegated to the sidelights. But when we entered the scene, a little improvement happened because our original compositions were welcomed by the crowd," she said.

Polintan and Crizaldo said they are very grateful to the *bakya* crowd because they made them the most popular Filipino boy band today.

This is the main reason Valle, a former That's Entertainment member, has no other recourse but to join the trend.

She chose to promote her first single "O Kay Sarap" in the provinces. She said Baguio is her first performance outside Metro Manila.

Eighteen-year-old Valle, packaged by Prime Music as innocent-looking, sexy artist who can belt out sentimental songs, established rapport with the *bakya* crowd here when she sang "Sinungaling."

"My first single is not only meant for lovers but also for political candidates in the May 14 elections. People can easily relate to my song because there are many people who fail to honor their words," she said.

Not offended

"I'm not offended if they call my song *bakya* because that is what people want. I prefer being called such because I am easily recognized," she said.

Ricky Lo (not the columnist), Valle's talent manager, said when Valle started to sing the song in her malls, people sang with her. He said people recognized the song better than the singer.

"That's a good sign for a new singer like her because that means we are able to capture the attention of the public," he said.

Johnny Quiling, station manager of MBC's Love Radio, said responding to the needs of the *masa* has made their station No. 1 in a recent survey.

He said the concert was meant to thank city residents for voting Love Radio as the top FM station here.

Quiling said the power of the *bakya* crowd should not be underestimated as they spell the future of the OPM industry.

"*Inaalagaan namin ang* crowd *na yun* (We nurture this crowd). Instead of patronizing Ricky Martin and other foreign singers, the housewives, janitors, salesgirls and students have been consistently requesting the Tagalog sentimental songs. Call it different names but OPM is here to stay," he said.

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Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Academy Award nominee writer/director ALMOST FAMOUS is the story of an unabashed rock 'n roll music fan tasked to write for Rolling Stone magazine in the '70s at age 15. As he joins the band Stillwater on tour, he befriends the band members and their groupies, and grows up, losing his virginity along the way.
ALMOST FAMOUS won a Golden Globe BEST PICTURE Award (Musical/Comedy), and 4 Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay, Editing, and Supporting Actress for Kate Hudson and Frances McDormand. The movie also stars Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Patrick Fugit, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.
Embraced by critics ALMOST FAMOUS is described as "absolutely fabulous," "honest and brilliant," "bighearted and bittersweet," and "filled with splendid performances."

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HANNIBAL
(MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18)
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:50 PM / 3:35 / 6:20 / 9:00 / 12:00 MN
GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
11:10 AM / 1:55 PM / 4:40 / 7:25 / 10:10
GLORIETTA 4
1:00 PM / 3:45 / 6:30 / 9:15 / 12:00 MN
12:10 PM / 2:55 / 5:40 / 8:25 / 11:10
GREENBELT
12:30 PM / 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45 / 11:30
12:00 NN / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15 / 11:00

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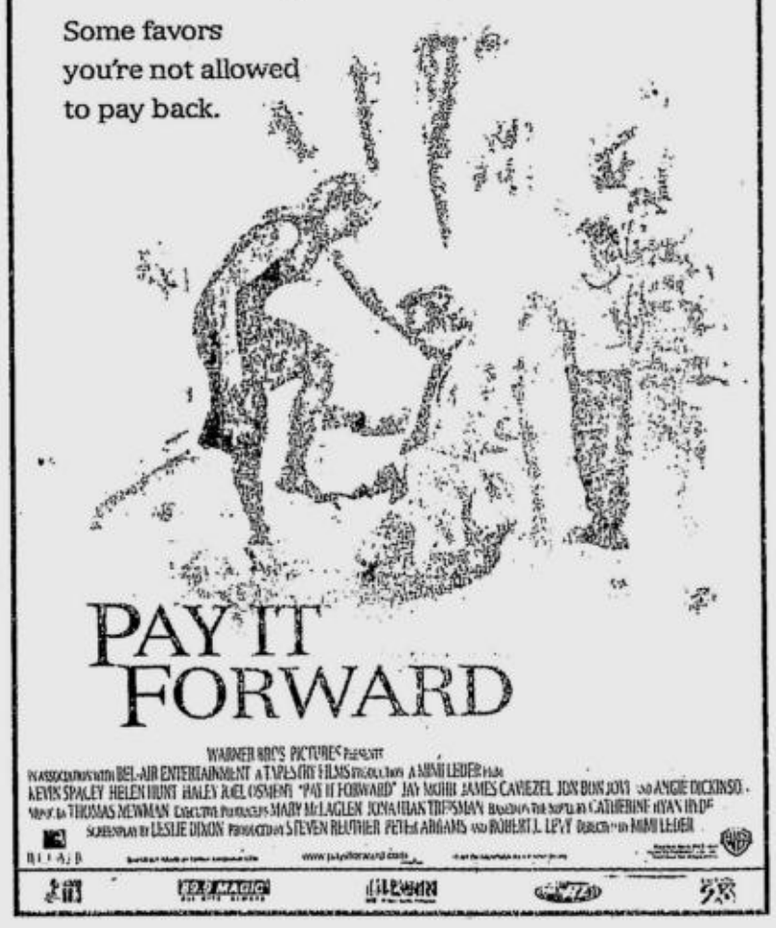
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WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL-AIR ENTERTAINMENT A TAPESTRY FILMS PRODUCTION A MIMI LEDER FILM
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MUSIC BY THOMAS NEWMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY MCLAGLEN JONATHAN TREPSMAN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY CATHERINE RYAN HYDE
SCREENPLAY BY LESLIE DIXON PRODUCED BY STEVEN REUTHER PETER ABRAMS AND ROBERT L. LEVY DIRECTED BY MIMI LEDER

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1	2	3
102 DALMATIANS - G 10:30, 12:35, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	HANNIBAL - R 18 10:20, 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00, 11:25	PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 11:00
4	5	6
THE FAMILY MAN - P 13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	CAST AWAY - P 13 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	HANNIBAL - R 18 11:35, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Aunor, Papin sing their way to voters' hearts

BY JUAN ESCANDOR,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

IN NAGA CITY, no one mounts the soapbox to make speeches anymore; instead seasoned chanteuses running for elective positions have turned the electoral exercise into a singing contest—much to the delight of the people.

Superstar Nora Aunor and singer Imelda Papin, who both top the list of local candidates in Camarines Sur, are singing their way to voters' hearts in the province.

Aunor, who gained fame when she won in the singing contest "Ang Tawag ng Kampeon" back in the 1960s, said she would rather sing than deliver a speech because she fears she may make a mistake.

But she promised the people good governance if they would vote for her.

In political rallies, Aunor would belt out a medley starting with the staple "Saan Ka Man Naroroon (Wherever You May Be)."

Papin on the other hand, would yield to popular demand and sing "Isang Linggong Pag-Ibig (A Week of Love)."

For Papin, political rallies are like concert events where she can make people sing with her the chronicle of a one-week love affair—the same song that launched her career in the 1980s.

Aunor was formally introduced as the official gubernatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition on Thursday.

The announcement finally dispelled rumors that she was not interested in running against reelectionist Gov. Luis Villafuerte of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

In television interviews after she defected from deposed President Estrada's camp, Aunor said she was not keen on running for governor because she had no money to spend for her campaign.

She added only big political leaders in Camarines Sur are the ones interested in launching her candidacy.

But in a straw vote among members of the PPC, or united opposition, three days before Edsa People Power II, Aunor reportedly won over Naga Mayor Sulpicio Roco Jr., younger brother of the senator, 25-10.

That report belied Aunor's claims she was not interested in politics.

AUNOR

PAPIN

The younger Roco is running as congressional candidate for the second district of Camarines Sur, the district of Rep. James Jacob who yielded in Roco's favor.

The united opposition is a tactical alliance forged among former Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo of the Lakas-NUCD, former Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella of the Nationalist People's Coalition, and Sen. Raul Roco of Aksyon Demokratiko.

The united opposition was organized to challenge the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara.

Governor Villafuerte heads the provincial party chapter.

Villafuerte, who will run as governor for the last term, has Papin as his running mate.

Late last year, Villafuerte announced that Papin would run for the congressional seat in the third district of Camarines Sur.

He repositioned Papin to run as his vice governor when he learned Aunor had decided to run against him.

Papin will run against PPC vice gubernatorial candidate Emmanuel Llaguno, a former Sangguniang Panlalawigan member.

Llaguno has the backing of Fuentebella, whose son Wempy is a congressional candidate for the third district.

Wempy is up against party-list Rep. Eduardo Pilapil who is supported by Villafuerte.

From the creator of Buffy the Vampire Slayer comes another biting hit.

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A product of Sony's years of research and testing, the Super Audio CD makes it possible to transmit data without losing its freshness and purity.

The technology that makes this possible is called Direct Stream Digital (DSD). Similar to analogue data of LPs, DSD skips two steps in the usual recording process used in CDs. So recording is remarkably purer, more faithful to the original.

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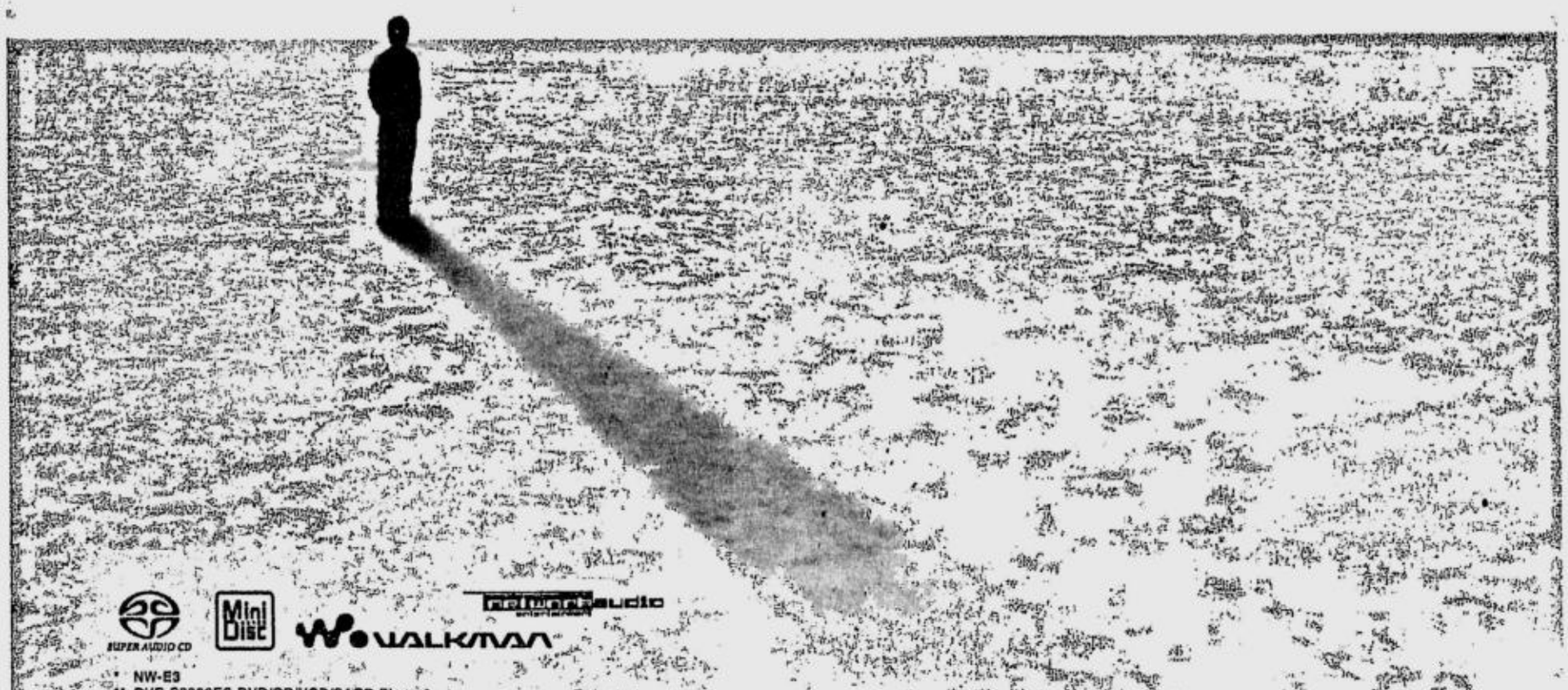

* NW-E3
** DVP-S9000ES DVD/CD/VCD/SACD Player
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MiniDisc: Forerunner in Digital Audio

The Digital Recording format which has already made a mark in the world, the MiniDisc became a success because it combines the advantages of both tape and CD in a compact, durable format.

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A laser optical pick-up ensures virtually no loss in quality no matter how many times you record. There's absolutely no wear-and-tear for years of use. No surprise then that this feature has made the MiniDisc popular even with advertising agency producers, sound recording engineers and radio station DJs.

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Direct Stream Digital (DSD)

Technology that emits sound data that is similar to analogue data. This is possible because it skips two steps in the recording and playback process normally included in CD recording.

Come to *The Future Sounds Sony* digital music exhibit at the 2nd floor, Glorietta 4, from February 26 to March 4, 2001, featuring MiniDisc, Super Audio CD and Network Walkman products for you to see, hear, touch and use.

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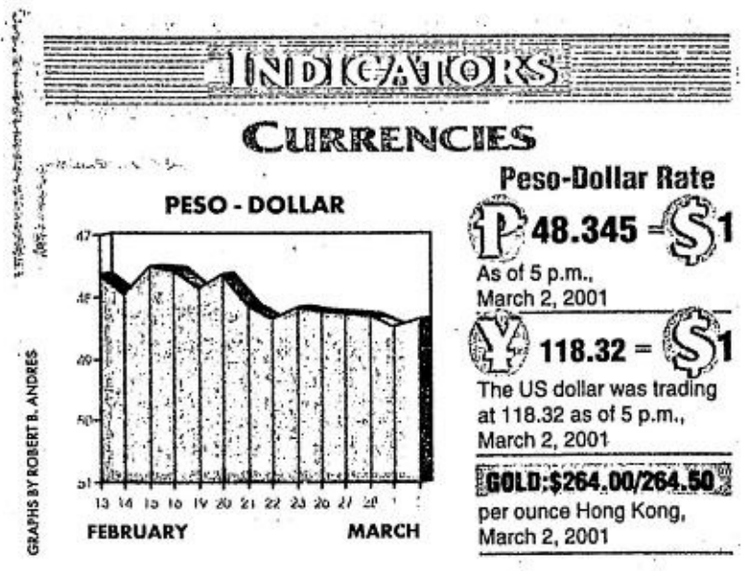
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Export growth continues to slow down



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Most blue chips recovered ground after losses on Thursday, with index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. leading the way as investors reacted positively to its prospects for this year after an encouraging final quarter performance in 2000.

The firm announced its year 2000 results on Thursday which were higher

STOCKS/ B3

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PHILIPPINE exports in January grew 6.3 percent from a year earlier to $2.889 billion but fell sharply from December due to slower US growth and a slump in electronics demand.

The National Statistics Office yesterday announced that January exports dropped 17.36 percent from December, the sharpest month-on-month decline for January since 1992. It was also the sharpest monthly fall since April 1992, when exports growth dropped 27 percent.

Economists said electronics components led the decline, falling 19.27 percent from December. The sector, which made up 58 percent of the aggregate export revenue in January, was up 1.68 percent from January 2000.

January's exports were still topped by three traditional export winners: electronics components, garments and clothing accessories, and woodcraft and furniture.

Looking ahead, the Philippines would have a difficult time reaching the same level of export growth level as last year, with the impact of a slower economy in the United States—the country's biggest customer—and a retreat in an electronics industry boom as seen in Internet and mobile phone businesses, they said.

"It could be 5 percent or less . . . for Philippine export growth in 2001 after 8.7 percent (growth) last year," said S&P MMS economist David Cohen.

January was the month when a popular revolt toppled then President Joseph Estrada, who was accused by a provincial governor in October of amassing illegal wealth while in office.

Political uncertainty since October has seen the economy deteriorate and the currency plunge to a record low of P55.75 to the dollar on Jan. 17.

Economists said the political crisis did not have a significant impact on exports as they are mainly dictated by events offshore. They also said the height of political turbulence lasted only a few days and the resolution was received favorably by the markets.

Exports to the United States, which accounted for 29.1 percent of total exports in January, grew by 4.8 percent from January 2000. Exports to Japan, the Philippines' second biggest customer with a 17.4-percent share in January, grew 29.3 percent.

Outlooks for both the United States and Japan going forward are grim, with the Bank of Japan abruptly cutting its leading interest rates on Wednesday and signaling a willingness to ease further.

"The US alone accounts for a lion's share of export receipts. The government really has to expand trading with other countries in order to offset the decline in demand from the US and also Japan, as everyone knows that Japan is on the brink of recession," Wellex Global Equities head of research James Lago said.

The third biggest market, Singapore, accounted for 8.8 percent of the total receipts amounting to $253.41 million, representing an increase of 17 percent.

The other big markets for local products were the Netherlands ($241.02 million); Thailand ($167.79 million); Germany ($139 million); Taiwan ($138.45 million); Malaysia, ($101.52 million); Hong Kong ($98.86 million), and the United Kingdom ($88.72 million).

Export receipts from the top 10 markets amounted to $2.57 billion or 89 percent of the total.

With a report from Reuters

Gov't eyes P17B from privatization program

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo has directed the Committee on Privatization to raise P17 billion this year from the sale of five government assets.

"We would sell five assets and we intend to generate at least P10 billion and as much as P15 billion to P17 billion," the finance chief said after a COP meeting yesterday.

The government hopes to sell this year its 90-percent stake in Philippine National Construction Corp., properties of International Broadcasting Co., a 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co., the International School property in Makati, and the Al-Amanah Bank.

The COP earlier estimated that it could only raise P7 billion from privatization this year, but Romulo said the inter-agency team had to step up its divestment efforts to beef up state coffers and help finance a projected deficit of P225 billion this year.

The government has even presented a more bullish privatization earnings target of P20 billion to the International Monetary Fund in its visit in early February.

Romulo, who chairs the COP, explained that on top of the P10-billion minimum privatization earnings projection, the government could raise some P3 billion from the sale of smaller assets being held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

PNCC and IBC-13 were placed on the auction block late last year but both biddings were declared a failure. PNCC, for instance, fetched a highest bid of only P1.3 billion as against the indicative price of P7 billion.

Romulo said COP members have assured him that improved economic prospects would also lure more bidders to these assets and entice them to make better offers.

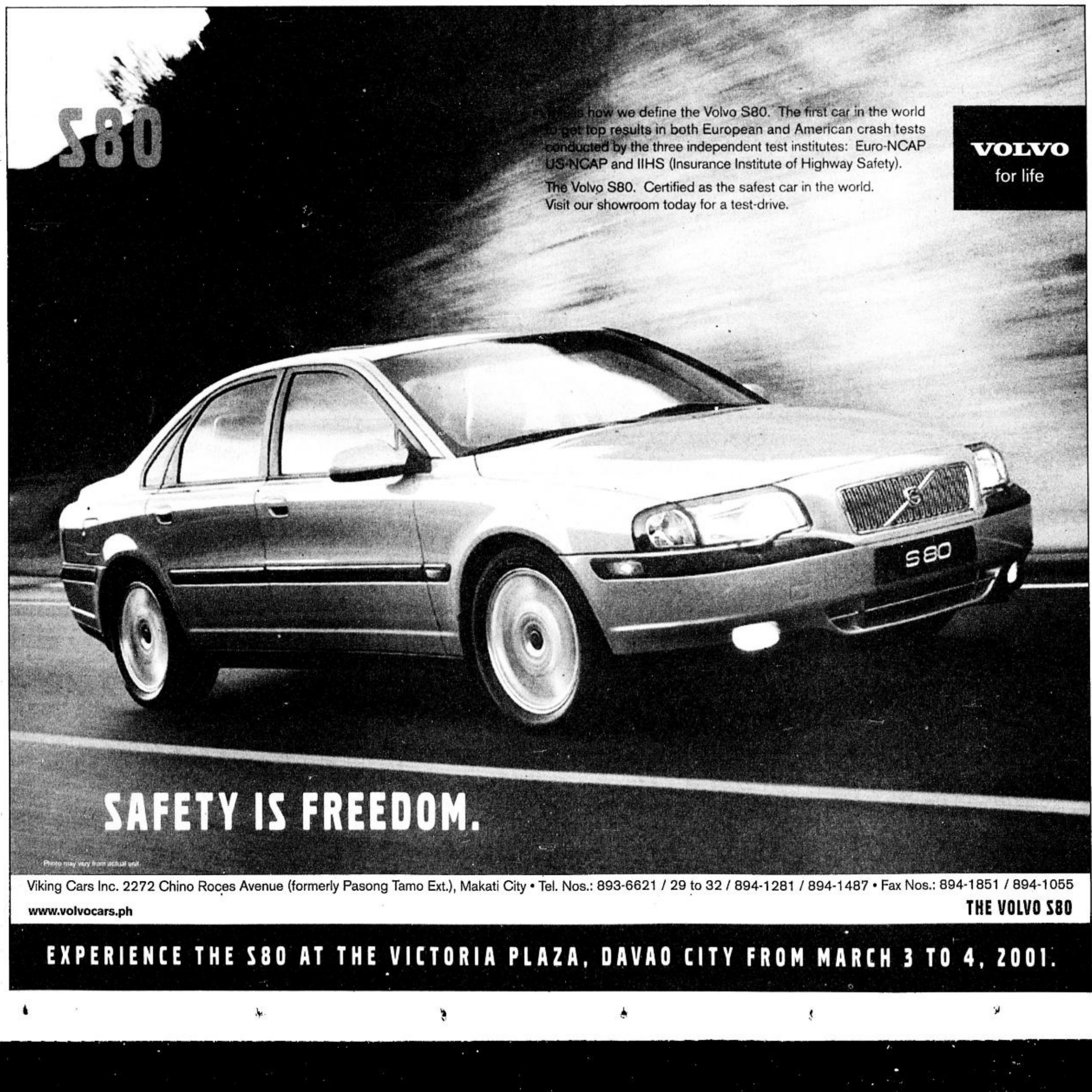
He said the new government would be able to dispose of these assets that were earlier snubbed or undervalued by bidders. "These are good properties," he noted.

Last year, the Estrada administration was counting on P22 billion in privatization proceeds to beef up its coffers and help contain its budget deficit. However, it generated less than P5 billion in sales.

None of the big-ticket items it had planned to sell such as the 30.4-percent in Philippine National Bank, a 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co., 90 percent of PNCC and 50 percent of Philphos were successfully divested.

PNB was sold to Lucio Tan's Starbuck Equities Corp. last July 19 but in September, the taipan reneged on his commitment to produce a letter of credit that would assure his payment for the shares in 2002.

Bids for PNCC and Philphos were way below the indicative prices while the bidding for different assets of IBC 13 was snubbed by investors.



Owe me, owe my

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FORMERLY, he was the distinguished gentleman from Tarlac. It's the way guys like him in the legislature usually call each other. You know—always polite. They do so even when everybody already knows they actually want to dig out each other's eyeballs.

Thus, as a rule, the distinguished gentleman from Kulikuli may only attack a colleague politely. "The distinguished gentleman from Mandaluyong (outside) may wish to reconsider his obfuscated position." Translation: the moron is lower than the life form in the bowels of livestock afflicted with mad-cow disease.

Anyway, the formerly distingished gentleman from Tarlac is now the honorable Secretary of Finance Alberto Romulo. He was the first ever named in the Cabinet of the cute administration of Gloriaetta. This gave him the right to correct his boss in public.

* * *

MAYBE you were busy selling ghost helmets and spirit rifles to the Marines. Or you were trying to keep track of the forthcoming elections. Who are running among the wives of politicos, or their children, grandchildren, siblings, and other dead relatives?

Thus you probably missed the most recent cuteness of this administration. As soon as Gloriaetta declared that the government could not yank Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco out of San Miguel Corp., Romulo got an inspiration for a rebuttal.

Actually, Gloriaetta was referring to the San Miguel shares controlled by the government. They were not enough for the government to elect enough directors to the San Miguel board to kick out Cojuangco. For how else could you remove him?

Romulo said the cute administration of Gloriaetta would simply wage a legal battle against Cojuangco. Also, the Palace would only have to bark orders and, presto, its own political hangers-on would control the country's biggest business. Wow!

* * *

IT'S hard to say whether or not it was all in the game plan. Maybe Gloriaetta and Romulo were trying to confuse the enemy. Gloriaetta would say one thing, and then the head of her economic team, the finance secretary, would say another. I mean, who knows?

Sige nga, you explain to me this cuteness! Don't tell me that Romulo was just sending a message. And that was, he did not think he owed Gloriaetta his position, and it was even the other way around. She actually owed him her position through Tita Cory.

In boardrooms, it is recognized that as much as Kuya Eddie placed his boys well in this cute administration, Tita Cory got her man to the plum post of economic czar, who was none other than Romulo. And Tita Cory never hid her animosity toward Cojuangco.

Still, it's hard to believe that, if Gloriaetta has something cooking in San Miguel, Romulo this early can go against his boss, no matter what he thinks about who owes whom whatever. Somebody has got to be on top, even if that somebody is a woman.

* * *

ME, I would readily give Romulo more credit than that. Surely, he heard that San Miguel did well under Cojuangco. For instance, the company grabbed 90 percent of the beer market, despite all those imported brands and the marketing genius of Lucio Tan.

To admit that San Miguel is doing great, however, goes right smack against the claims of this cute administration on the economy. The economy already collapsed—remember? If the economy crumbled, how could a company like San Miguel prosper?

Economists, whether "trained" or "strained," use San Miguel as a barometer of the economy. San Miguel's sales indicated how good or bad farm production was doing. In good times, farmers drank beer. In bad times, they produced babies. No, wrong, delete!

That's why to Romulo, San Miguel's profits of P7.5 billion last year can never be impressive. If he was impressed, it was like admitting the economy did rather well, when in the mind of this administration, the economy is . . . well, "tattered." *Trapo, ba, trapo*!

* * *

SURE, any company can always do better. This, precisely, is the argument of Romulo. He thinks that this cute administration can do better than Cojuangco. In this way, business is like politics. Everybody thinks he knows better than the President.

Anyway, it all remains to be seen. In effect, Romulo is saying that booting out Cojuangco is a wise business move by this cute administration for San Miguel. No, definitely, it is not just a dirty move to benefit some political hangers-on.

All right, from 1986 to 1998, in all those 12 years or so when the sequestered San Miguel was controlled by government, er, "nominees," all its board members were never there as part of some political pay-off. Is that it?

Come on, let's stop fooling each other! San Miguel was the Payatas of politics. It was the dumpsite for political hangers-on. And so you kick out somebody who has substantial stake in something, because you want to put in your own garbage.

* * *

NOW, Romulo may be proven right, and in the end, Cojuangco may not be declared by the courts as the owner of some 20 percent of San Miguel. So why should he now exercise control over those shares, right?

Precisely, the suspense is killing me already. Who actually owns those 20 percent has been the big mystery for the past 15 years. I even lost count of the various court cases to solve it. Look at that—15 years. I could have raised a son already, by golly.

But the thing is, what if the court in the end declares Cojuangco as the real owner? It already took the courts 15 years to solve the mystery, and you already saw what happened to San Miguel during those years. I mean, it wasn't nice at all!

To think, a wave of change is sweeping the corporate world. In other countries, it is now recognized that those who have substantial stake in the business, must take control. Why? Because they are only expected to work hard for something they own.

Kimberly-Clark considers RP for its regional facility

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

KIMBERLY-CLARK Corp., the world's leading tissue maker, is considering the Philippines as a possible site for its regional manufacturing facility.

In a statement, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc., the local unit of Kimberly-Clark Corp., said that if the country would be chosen out of the several potential sites, the group would infuse $60 million in additional investments into the country in the next five years.

The new investments are expected to create additional jobs and generate exports of about $50 million in the next five years. This is expected to increase to $100 million in the next 10 years.

KCPI currently exports its locally manufactured products to neighboring countries in Asia through Kimberly-Clark units in these countries. Its export sales to other Asian countries such as Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia amounted to $7.8 million last year. Total net sales of KCPI during the period reached P4.8 billion.

KCPI is a manufacturer of quality tissue products; infant, feminine and adult care products, and absorbent cotton products.

Its brands in the Philippines include Kleenex and Joy for the tissues, and Huggies and Kimbies for diapers.

KCPI provides jobs to more than 900 employees, mostly residents of San Pedro, Laguna, where the company's manufacturing plant is located.

The company has been in operation in the Philippines for 36 years. It is the largest taxpayer in San Pedro, Laguna and one of the top taxpayers in the country with total taxes paid last year amounting to P695 million.

Its parent company Kimberly-Clark Corp. is also the second largest household and personal care products manufacturing company in the United States.

Congress unlikely to OK incentives enhancing bill

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments has given up hopes of getting Congress' nod to a bill enhancing its fiscal incentive package this year even if legislators hold a special session after the May elections.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the proposed amendments to the Omnibus Investments Act was not likely to be part of the agenda for the special session of the 11th Congress.

Roxas said the Power Reform Bill and the Money Laundering Act were given priority for approval by the Legislative-Executive Development Council in the proposed special session.

Aside from more urgent bills, Roxas said there was simply no time to merge the Senate and House versions of the revisions to the Omnibus Investments Act.

Roxas said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the bill's author in the upper chamber, was too busy campaigning for his reelection as a senator and he would be hard-pressed to finalize the new law.

He said it would be difficult to reconcile both versions of the incentive bill because there remained substantial disagreements on key issues.

He said Enrile was adamant on reorganizing the BOI under the incentives bill by limiting its responsibilities only to investment promotion with the power to grant incentives to be transferred to the Department of Finance. He said Enrile reckoned that this would finally resolve the dispute between the DOF and DTI on the impact of foregone revenues arising from the incentives on revenue collections.

Without a new incentives package, Roxas said the government would have to make do with its meager incentives (maximum 8-year income tax holiday) until the next Congress approves the amendments to the incentives package. However, Roxas said incentives were still critical for the Philippines to attract incentives because these perks make up for the disadvantages the country might have compared to its neighbors.

BOI-registered investments plummeted to P21 billion last year, its lowest in 10 years, due to a lack of incentives with the 4- to 6-year income tax holiday its main attraction.

In contrast, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority offers more fiscal perks to locators in industrial estates such as tax- and duty-free importation of capital equipment and 5-percent tax on gross income. Peza investments more than doubled to P74.056 billion last year from P36.819 billion in 1999.

BOI officials had earlier warned that failure to pass the changes in the BOI's incentives package by next month would set back Philippine investments by at least two years.

La Tondeña profit down 8%

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. said yesterday its net income fell 8 percent in January from a year earlier, dragged lower by higher interest expenses.

"Higher interest expenses however pulled down net income by 8 percent from P120 million to P111 million," the unit of food and drinks conglomerate San Miguel Corp. said in a statement.

Consolidated sales jumped 18 percent to P1.3 billion from P1.1 billion last year and operating income rose 15 percent to P266 million from P231 million.

La Tondeña shares closed 50 centavos higher at P37, in line with the Manila commercial-industrial sub-index's 1.5-percent rise to 2,179.50 points.

The sales volume of its juice products increased 32 percent year-on-year in January, while bottled water volumes grew 4 percent.

Jelly snacks recorded the highest sales volume growth at 53 percent, almost the same as the sales volumes for November and December 2000 combined.

Liquor sales, however, weakened during the period.

"A significant improvement in liquor gross margins was achieved as a result of increased retrieval efficiencies for second-hand bottles," the company said.

La Tondeña had said it would spend around P1 billion this year to expand its juice and liquor plants. *Reuters*

Smart defers anew plan to list

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

SMART Communications Inc. is postponing anew its plan to list at the Philippine Stock Exchange this year.

Smart's listing plan has been postponed several times since the 1997 financial crisis. Its president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said last year that the company would likely push through with the listing this year.

However, Manuel V. Pangilinan, president and CEO of Smart's parent Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said it was unlikely for Smart to pursue the listing this year as it still has to establish its profitability.

Smart had to shell out a huge amount of money in 1999 to establish a digital cellular phone network using the global system for mobile (GSM) communications. This affected its profitability last year.

Smart registered a turnaround in the second half of 2000 with a net profit of P1.5 billion. This was, however, wiped out by the P1.9-billion net loss in the first half, resulting in a P400-million net loss for the year.

Pangilinan said Smart's performance in the second half of 2000 showed that the company would be a main driver of profitability for the PLDT group.

At present, it has more than 2.8 million cellular phone subscribers, of which more than 2 million are GSM subscribers. This year, Smart is going to spend P21 billion for network expansion and aggressive marketing.

The company has a 45-percent market share, with competitor Globe Telecom following closely with a 41-percent share. Smart's sister firm, Pilipino Telephone Corp., has a 10-percent share, making the PLDT group the leading mobile phone service provider with 55 percent of the market.

GOINGS-ON

SkyCable signal

ADTEL Inc., a member of the Lopez group of companies, has established a two-way video transport system over the fiber optic network linking ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and SkyCable. The system was set up to improve the video signal transmission between ABS-CBN's uplink station in Quezon City and SkyCable's headend in Mandaluyong City.

The DV6400 Multichannel Transport System by ADC, supplied and installed by Adtel, is an uncompressed system and transmits the entire video signal intact, improving signal transmission. And since the hardware allows the signal to be transmitted through fiber, ABS-CBN need not pay for the use of expensive satellite transponders, therefore, reducing operational cost.

Virtual private network

WIRELESS broadband provider Meridian Telecoms has launched its Managed Virtual Private Network services to local businesses that need to be in contact with multiple branches, suppliers or business partners. The Meridian VPN service allows subscribers to make use of Meridian's highly secure data network to build its own data connections throughout the National Capital Region and the country.

Ricky Peña, Meridian vice president for sales and marketing, said, "Because the service is broadband, a Meridian-connected company gets high-speed connectivity: because it is wireless, the company's Meridian private network is much quicker, easier and less expensive to deploy and maintain.

Meridian has built a nationwide high-speed broadband infrastructure required to offer an enterprise the broadband network connections that will help streamline its operations.

On-time delivery award

LITTON Mills Inc., a subsidiary of JG Summit Holdings Inc., has been awarded the Golden Award for 100-percent on-time delivery by Oshkosh B'Gosh Inc., one of the world's largest manufacturers of children's apparel.

Johnson Robert Go Jr., Litton senior vice president for manufacturing and administration, said: "It is very important for buyers like Oshkosh that they get exactly what they order from their suppliers. This means having the right product delivered at the right time and in the right quantity. We've been able to do that successfully."

DISCLOSURES

SEMIRARA Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 7, 10 a.m. at Dacon Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 6 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. Also, the board of directors voted Mary Catherine Hilario to be the company's new corporate secretary.

* * *

ARANETA Properties Inc. announced the appointment of Gilbert Millado Jr. as assistant corporate secretary to replace Juan Victor Llamas.

* * *

FILINVEST Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25 with record date on March 15.

* * *

FILINVEST Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 11 with record date on March 15.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co.'s wholly owned subsidiary ePLDT will invest P24 million in Internet café operator Netopia Computer Technologies Inc. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, February 2, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	69.5	69	69.5	175,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54	54	52	52.5	322,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	70	74	70	74	2,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	217	220	217	220	39,820
Philippine National Bank	43.5	45	43.5	44	149,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	42,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.56	170,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	260,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1315	1280	1315	5,130
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1040	1055	1040	1055	8,870
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	47	47	46.5	46.5	18,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.62	0.65	0.62	0.63	10,630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	725	700	725	2,290
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	4,230,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	56,000
Pltel	0.62	0.66	0.62	0.65	2,730,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	790	800	780	795	117,520
Ivantage Corp.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.065	0.0675	0.0625	0.0675	144,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	53	54	53	53.5	28,400
Manila Electric Co. B	60.5	63	60.5	62.5	1,286,400
Pejron Corp.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.78	5,223,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	209,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.16	1.24	1.16	1.24	5,860,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.52	0.55	690,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	370,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	10,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	37	37.5	37	37	89,400
RFM Corp.	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.28	453,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	43,100
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57.5	57	57.5	192,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	90,000
Ayala Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	1,228,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.58	470,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	41,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.15	5,767,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	110,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.54	270,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	399,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23	23.75	23	23.5	292,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Ionics Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	62,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	680,000
Macroasia Corp.	2	2	2	2	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.9	3,320,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	990,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	4,950,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.71	810,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	120,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	410,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	70,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1	1	1	1	440,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	9,000
Music Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	373,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.82	290,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	500,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.13	650,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	4,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	210,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	264,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	1,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.65	2,470,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.64	0.64	1,730,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	20,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.6	11,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	47	47	46	46	445,400
DMCI Holdings, Inc.-Pref.	500	505	500	505	1,280
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.7	255,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	720	720	700	700	10,020
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	65,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	400,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	4,692,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	820,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.42	0.42	110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	3,930,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	2,637,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.18	2.2	2.16	2.2	23,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	11,168,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	730,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	27,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	75,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	1,600,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	500,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	12,100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,177,520	62,215,620.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	312,962,310	318,131,500.00
PRO	24,150,000	116,738,380.00
Mining	129,000,000	1,131,300.00
OIL	14,200,000	360,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	481,489,830	498,577,200.00

	AVERAGES
Banks & Fin Svc	602.48 UP 4.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,179.50 UP 32.15
PRO	625.02 UP 18.42
Mining	1,338.64 UP 0.12
OIL	1.83 UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	790.55 UP 16.65
Composite	1,596.97 UP 26.77

NO. OF ADVANCES: 56; NO. OF DECLINES: 17; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 2,760

CURRENCIES

March 2, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.075153	1.000000	48.3740
Japan	Yen	0.009157	0.008517	0.4120
United Kingdom	Pound	1.564563	1.455200	70.3938
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.137843	0.128208	6.2019
Switzerland	Franc	0.650938	0.605437	29.2874
Canada	Dollar	0.694544	0.645995	31.2494
Singapore	Dollar	0.615605	0.572574	27.6977
Australia	Dollar	0.565097	0.525597	25.4252
Bahrain	Dinar	2.852006	2.652651	128.3193
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.286684	0.266645	12.8987
Brunei	Dollar	0.614724	0.571755	27.6581
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000109	0.000101	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.024859	0.023121	1.1185
UAE	Dirham	0.292758	0.272294	13.1719
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000798	0.0386
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.930100	44.9927
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.475553	23.0044
France	Franc	0.152450	0.141793	6.8591
Netherlands	Guilder	0.072673	0.067593	3.2697
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067593	3.2697
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023057	1.1154
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000480	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.156432	7.5672
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004639	0.2244
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00559	0.2704
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023057	1.1154
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.180983	57.1289

AIRCRAFT SERVICE CENTER INVESTOR
President Macapagal-Arroyo receives an F-16 miniature aircraft as a souvenir from Robert Young, president of US-based Lockheed Martin Global Inc., who called on her in Malacañang recently. Young informed the President that his firm will set up an aircraft service center at the former US facility at Clark in Pampanga. Also in photo are Satsuko, Young's Japanese wife, and Peter Rodriguez, president and CEO of Asian Aerospace Corp.

Stocks end firmer

(From page B1)

than market expectations.

Despite the pick-up, traders pointed out that gains were made on very thin turnover reflecting continued investor awareness about the outcome of the Supreme Court decision on the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency.

The main composite index closed up 26.77 points, or 1.7 percent at 1,596.97 points on turnover of P494 million from P734.24 million on Thursday.

For the week, the main index was down 50.03 points, or 3.03 percent.

"It's basically a technically driven bounce . . . we hit a support level at 1,570 points on Thursday which held and people jumped in to take advantage of low prices," KGI Securities Inc. head of sales Fitz Aclan said.

He added, however, that volumes remained thin with many investors, particularly foreigners, steering clear of the market until the Supreme Court brings out its ruling on the presidency expected around mid-March. ***Reuters***

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1) 651568/200 m2/res. w/impvts.	L7 B27, Jade St., Cainta Greenpark Village, Cainta, Rizal	P986,000
2) 405392/500 m2/res. vacant lot	Sunrise Drive, Beverly Hills Subd., Bgy. Aranela, Antipolo City	1,250,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-206569 & T-206576/1,680 m2/res. vacant lot	Poblacion I, Sagay City, Negros Occidental	1,512,000
2) T-258801/621 m2/res. w/ unfinished bldg.	Galaxy St., Henrietta Village, Singcang, Bacolod City	1,378,600
3) T-42134-35/405 m2/res. vacant lot	New Isabela, Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat	510,300

For inquiries, please call Acquired Assets Division at Tel. Nos. 817-8909, 817-2822, 894-1910, 840-7644 & 840-7920. Offers should be sent to Ms. Lita O. Valencia/VP-Acquired Assets Div. 11th Flr., Equitable PCI Bank Bldg. Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City or via fax at 817-7491 not later than March 23,2001. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

Inflation seen almost flat for February

THE ANNUAL inflation in February will be pressured by the effects of the peso's weakness of recent months although softer consumer demand and a pull-back in oil prices would serve as balancing factors, economists said yesterday.

While inflation may not improve much from January's annual 6.9-percent rate, this should not deter the central bank from maintaining its policy of easing interest rates, they said.

A Reuters poll of 10 economists forecast annual inflation to reach, on average, 6.88 percent in February, almost flat from January. Estimates ranged from 6.6 to 7.2 percent.

The National Statistics Office is due to release the official inflation rate for February on Monday.

Economists were mixed on how big an impact the weak peso would have on February consumer prices since the currency had recovered strongly in the month.

The peso jumped to a high of about 47.20 to the dollar in February from a low of 55.75 in January at the height of a movement to force former President Joseph Estrada to resign over a gambling scandal which triggered an impeachment trial in the Senate.

"The impact of the (weak) peso will take up to six to nine months to work its way through the economy . . . It won't disappear that quickly," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore.

He said if the peso stabilized near its levels now, there was room for inflation to slow to about 5 to 6 percent in the second half.

Economists said that despite the slow improvement in inflation, the central bank should stick to its policy of easing interest rates to help economic recovery and also to be in line with the trend in US rates.

The US Federal Reserve has taken a loosening bias due to the slowing economy there.

"With inflation close to its peak and with the economy slowing, it (BSP) can afford to continue cutting rates," said Julian Jessop, Standard Chartered economist in Singapore.

The central bank left its key overnight rates unchanged for the third week in a row on Thursday after lowering them 400 basis points since December. The cuts brought the key rates to their level before the gambling scandal erupted in October.

There was not much improvement in food prices in February, economists said, keeping inflation almost unchanged from the previous month. Food accounts for about half of the consumer price basket.

"We did not see retailers pulling prices back to December levels, levels before the aberration," said Emilio Neri, economist of Abacus Securities Inc., referring to the popular uprising in January.

Local oil prices remained stable last month after oil refiners introduced price cuts in January. Although the price of cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas rose last month by about 11 percent, it will have a limited impact on overall consumer prices, economists said. ***Reuters***

MPC net income drops to ₱2.25B

METRO Pacific Corp. reported a consolidated net income of P2.25 billion for 2000, down from P2.4 billion the previous year.

MPC said in a statement that revenues were adversely affected by foreign exchange losses arising from US dollar denominated borrowings. The Philippine peso depreciated 19 percent last year.

"Affected by a very difficult economic environment, the year 2000 has been a challenging year for Metro Pacific. Nonetheless, I am very pleased with what has been achieved by the group," MPC president Ricardo S. Pascua said.

"Not only have we returned a profit but also, in so doing, we have successfully completed the repositioning of Metro Pacific as a quality real estate development company," Pascua added.

Aside from foreign exchange losses, MPC's bottom line last year was also affected by higher operating expenses and a sluggish demand that resulted in lower operating margins.

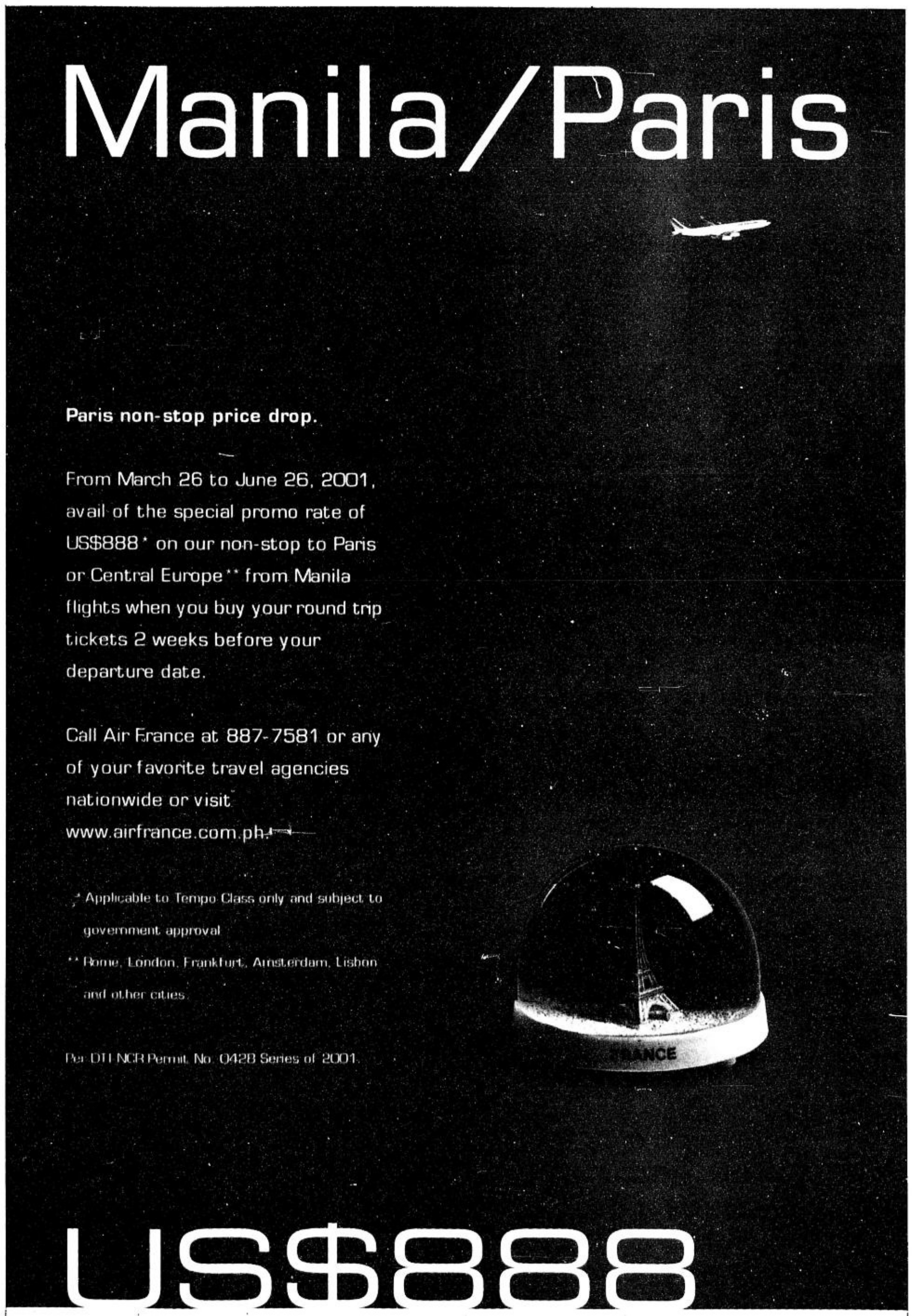
Pressure on the banking sector, on the other hand, led to higher interest rates that, in turn, resulted in higher financing charges.

With the difficulties last year, MPC derived the bulk of its income from the sale of an 8-percent stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. that generated a net gain of P5 billion.

In addition, gains of P257 million were realized from the sales of investments in Steniel Manufacturing Corp. and Metrovet Inc.

As a consequence of MPC's asset disposals last year, consolidated interest bearing debt declined by 27 percent to P16.41 billion from P22.35 billion last year.

With equity position increasing to P68.27 billion last year, MPC improved its debt-equity ratio to 0.39 from the previous year's level of 0.51.



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Notice is given that the estate of late CARMEN A. RIZADA was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #342 Page#58 Book III Series of 2001 of Notary Public Atty. Lino B. Soriano of Quezon City.
(PDI- 2/17, 24 & 3/3, 2001)

MASSAGE

H.S. Massage09198374853
Massage24hr 09193727855
ASK GEORGE M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME
European Girl 09179824530
H-H-M-S MALE 7314018
Male #16 Palanan 7320859
MASSAGE 0919-4056183 CHERY
MASSAGE (0919)433-3191 GEM
•NewMabuhay Msg4320870
•Nice Guys Ltd 4218450
VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771
Wind-Offl 752-3149 M/F

REFLEXOLOGY

Scorpion Messg 4372542
Male/VIP/0917-3049954 ok
REFLEX 0919-2396660 JoJo
REFLEX CARLA 716-4998

TUTORIAL LESSONS

ART 0919-5656690/9100942
Computers 75/hr 9319609
LALUZ 5268216/5268270
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•LBahay7251645/7441698•
•LBahay7251645/7441698•
LIPAT AGAD 5220956

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HOUSEHOLD

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CARPET
Sofa Shampooing 820-7066

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MAKATI

Along Evangelista Makati 4Stry Bldg. w/Penthouse & Mezzanine 311m² 45M 8441326

PASAY

RUSH:3Stry Bldg.Pasay Taft nr.EDSA FA:460m² LA:168m² P13M •JINKY 838-3726•

PASIG

Along C-Raymundo 3840m² @ 7.8T/m² 30%DP BalTerms Tel 6811766 DBO

QUEZON CITY

Restaurant 4 Sale P570T-complete equip rdy 4 oprtn 100m² RUSH at QC Look 4 Allan T-4101865/63

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

•RUSH SALE•
Bungalow B.F. Homes Caloocan City Price: P1.7M Neg. Tel:932-2077 Connie

MAKATI

4BR w/Lanai 2CR studyrm 193m² FA193m² 8200750
Sta. Ana 295m² Antiq Hse 5812119 RUSH SALE neg. 09175210439/09173797293

MANILA

Sing nr St.Sch La Sal 5268032

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 0487112

PARAÑAQUE

166 Molave Ave. Bgy Merville Pque 8218578
MERVILLE P3M-16M 8242685

PASIG

•V.VERDE w/ Pool 9126833

QUEZON CITY

Nr SM Fview 280m² 4140418
•Ayala Heights New 372-0888 / 69 / 25
LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
4BR/6T& B FA460 LA401
435-2346/0917-7062620
Mira Nila QC 354FA
5br 5t&b 3stry 150LA
6.9M 928-9714 / 927-9609

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North Olympus 4173705
Sikatuna 438m² 4BR3TB8M Baguio Crstal Dale 500m² 3hses fully furnished 8M Call 9215479 / 4337194
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PROVINCIAL

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OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Bingas 7.5M ownerlvngSF0917-8143792
VALENZUELA
744m² 2929580 Danny

LOT

LAS PIÑAS

338m² P'lupa 532-2602

MANILA

712m² - 45T/m² NEG. 3025395/3025199

MANDALUYONG

Mand 450m² LOT 5323936

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PARAÑAQUE

*BF 316m² RUSH 9126833
Cor DPX Hse 5.5M 437m² 3BR 2CP Dressing Each Moonvil S Pque 3710002/4 Alma neg of hrs only

QUEZON CITY

New Mla QC 7449m² 615-0298 • 0919-4037225
Nr Mindanao Ave. 336m² 3720888;3720825;3720869

RIZAL

246m² 3.9T/m² VISTA VERDE Cainta 6467425
ANTIPOLO 2080m² @2300 8963151/5331931/0918-9170625

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BSIDE ASSUMPTION 560m² 3T/m² 3025395/3025199

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MAKATI

2 UNITS 3BR/3TB 9M@ 3025395/3025199
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MANILA

MASANGKAY 4BR 128m² P2.8 7013668 09197046087
NrLaSalle 3sty3BR T899-2148

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3620065 BRIONES 7AVE 2T8;5/T

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BPTB tel. grg 15T 8441669
Off./Res. 140m² 6069 Palma back Rockwell 09179699999

MANILA

Studio nr DLSU 58T 5220956
Nr. LaSalle Taft T-8992148

MANDALUYONG

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NEAR NP 5,500 1BR 5369502

SAN JUAN

111 Hoover San Juan 2BR 1TB 1Park P12T T-7244645

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MAKATI

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T # 5268048 & 49
Dasma House With Pool •Call:MANNY 810-8436•

PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

3BR DUPLEX HSE 10A Sikatuna Vil QC ALAN 8184277
6BR NR UNIMART 30T 2415814

RIZAL

Antipolo Bnew 3br 2tb 6447461 ; 0917-4022356

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•Cathy 826-6127• re: detail
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•Call:MANNY 810-8436•

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3 Bedrooms Condominium Makati Cinema Square Tower Pasong Tamo St. Makati City
Studio Type Condominium BSA Tower Legaspi St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Apartment 7-B , Semi furnish Tuscan Condo 7th Floor Tuscan Bldg, Herrera St, Legazpi Village , Makati City
Apartment 3-D , Studio type Sunvar Condo• 3rd Floor Sunvar Condominium Bldg. Luna St. cor. Villaruel St., Pasay City
Unit-2110 Lower Penthouse (A=36.49 sqm) Makati Medical Plaza Condominium
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Brand New 2 storey Residential House & Lot w/ Basement Lot 534 sqm., Floor Area 671m2
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Block 6, Lot 7 Row House Lot 36 sqm., Flr. area 22 sq. m.
Blk 7, Lot 20 Row House (End unit) Lot 36 sqm., Flr. area 22 sq. m. Garden City II Village Queensrow West Molino. Bacoor, Cavite
2 storey Residential House w/ pool Bel-Air Subdivision Makati City

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Unit F-14 (a=59.33 sqm)
Unit S-6C (a=96.49 sqm)
Unit S-7 (a=44.99 sqm)
Makati Cinema Square Pasong Tamo St. Makati City
Unit S- Xb (a=123.65 sqm)
The Gallery Building Amorsolo St. Makati City
Unit 102/106 (a=197.19 sqm)
Unit 108 (a=139.40 sqm)
Unit 112 (a=56.20 sqm)
Unit 233 (a=17.50 sqm)
Mile Long Theme Center Herrera St. cor. Amorsolo St. Makati City
Commercial Space (a=308.77 sqm)
4th flr Isetann Cinerama Complex
Office Space (a=912 sqm)
2231 Molave Building P. Tamo Makati City
Office Space (a=243 sqm)
Corinthian Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Office Space (a=893 sqm)
Electra House.Herrera cor. Esteban St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Office /Warehouse (a=1,470 sqm)
Villa Lourdes Subd Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
Office/Warehouse (a=8,140 sqm)
Bayan-Bayanan Ave Concepcion I, Marikina City

Vacant Lot

Block 1, Lot 19 (a=300 sqm)
Block 1, Lot 23 (a=300 sqm)
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Area : 408.20 sqm.
7 Evangelista Street Xavierville Subdivision Loyola Heights, Quezon City
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Ideal for Warehouse (a=34,261 sqm)
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BUSY ST 9 DE FEB MAND 551-5491/CL-09189124546
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

ELECTION PRINT JOBS
ELECTION PAPERS
640-3792 • 643-5052 Boy
QC REAL ESTATE
Seminar - Review Starts March17 6Saturday 1:30pm Marced Bakeshop Edsa QC 9122304 ; 7216884 Rose

AUCTION SALE

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque, M.M. Auction Sale on March 9, 2001, Friday at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, Oct. 8-Nov. 9, 2000.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance

CBRMP

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE
COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting interested applicants to fill in the following vacant positions:

(1) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be a CPA or Accounting graduate preferably with masteral degree
2. Must have extensive experience (3-5 years) in Finance/Accounting/Auditing Budget Management functions
3. Must have at least 3-5 years experience in World Bank assisted projects, working with LGUs and oversight agencies (DBM, NEDA, DOF)
4. Must have extensive experience in government accounting and auditing procedures
5. Hardworking, well-motivated, with good leadership qualities/potentials
6. Excellent interpersonal skills
7. Must be willing to travel in Regions 5, 7, 8 and 13
8. Computer literate

* Previous applicants need not apply.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZING/DEVELOPMENT

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Bachelor's degree in either Community Development, Sociology, Human Ecology, Development Communication, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries or related fields; preferably with specialization or equivalent formal training in agriculture/forestry/fisheries extension, community organizing, rural development, educational communication or training management;
2. At least two years credible experience in people-focused projects or with NGO work especially those dealing with forest, agriculture or fisheries based livelihood and environmental concerns;
3. With good technical writing and communication skills; and computer literate;
4. Must possess the ability to work well with the LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
5. Must be able to speak and/or understand the local dialect;
6. Must be willing and physically fit to travel to remote coastal and upland communities, and interact with LGUs, upland farmers, fisherfolks, village leaders and people's organizations;
7. Must be a resident or willing to be posted in Region V, VII, VIII and XIII.

Requirements: One (1) each for Regions V, VII and XIII; Two (2) for Region VIII

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture not later than **March 6, 2001** to:

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
Attention: **THE PROJECT MANAGER**
7th Floor, EDPC Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila

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(College Graduate)

Qualifications:
- Computer Literate
- With or without License
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- Below 25 years old
- Good moral character and hardworking
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Rosario, Cavite
Tel.# : (046) 437-1714 / 17
Fax# : (046) 437-1713
E-mail : jpn@okane.skyinet.net
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Bidding will be held every Wednesday of the week starting March 7, 2001 at 10:00 A.M.,11/F Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue, Makati City. (Inclusive dates: March 14, 21,& 28, 2001)

For provincial based motor vehicles (Iloilo, Cebu, Gen. Santos, Davao and Bacolod), bidding will be held at their respective area offices at 10:00 A.M. every Wednesday starting March 7, 2001.

Int'l Lang Serv Center Inc.
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Can speak English
With pleasing personality
21-30 years old
Grad. of any 4-year course
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Tel.#4347915

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL PARTITION WITH WAIVER IN FAVOUR OF ONE OF THE HEIRS
NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ANGELITA A. BURREROS who died intestate on December 6 2000 at St. Luke's Medical Center 279 E Rodriguez St., Quezon City left a Share Ownership Statement No 012319645 of 133 shares from the Sun Life Financial Services of Canada as a demutualization benefit has been the subject of Extrajudicial Settlement Among Heirs executed by her egal heirs namely ANTONIO BURREROS and ANTONIETTE A. BURREROS That the parties hereto agree to divide and adjudicate themselves equally whatever proceeds maybe derived from the sale of the shares. However, ANTONIETTE BURREROS, do hereby transfer, cede by way of waiver her equal shares to ANTONIO BURREROS Acknowledged before Notary Public Atty Edwin O Belguen as per Doc. No. 84; Page No. 17, Book No. XI, Series of 2001
(PDI – Mar. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **MANUEL R. BUENAVENTURA** has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs on Feb. 12, 2001 under Doc. #305, Page #62, Book #1, Series of 2001 before Atty. Ramon U. Ampil,Q.C.
(PDI-Feb. 17, 24 & Mar. 3, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate of deceased person were executed by the heirs of the late **ROMEO CARREON** over Savings Account Nos. 0271-0648-29 with Land Bank of the Philippines, Baclaran Branch and entered in the notarial register of Atty. Ledibrido S. Patalinghug as Doc. No. 251;Page No. 52; Book No. 70; Series of 2000
PDI-Feb.17,24 & Mar. 3, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Opportunity to buy an ISP in Manila w/ subscriber base direct from owners. For confidentiality contact owners directly.
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TShirt Fac.Price 4383147

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of the estate of the late ELPIDIO MANANSALA BAUTISTA executed by his Heirs and transferring of the said property in favor of PACIFICO M. BAUTISTA, and sworn to before Notary Public Atty. Benjamin S. Mallari of Masantol, Pampanga and docketed under Doc. No. 227; Page 46; Book No. VII; Series of 2000
(PDI-Feb. 24; Mar. 3 & 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST PASSPORT AND PLANE TICKET
Passport ID NO: 894927 Plane Ticket No. 0652561511960 (Saudi Airlines) owned by Mr. Rodel R. Valiente. Please contact or call: 924-0521/9240530

Notice is hereby given the loss of Dangerous Drug License of MA. GRACE AGNES M. BAUTISTA S2 ID# 767491 Tel 433-7463

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the Loss of the Sime Darby Pilipinas, Inc. Stock Certificates Nos: 30005, 27364, 25190, 22681, 20589, 17172, 15902, 14248, 12826, 10828, 9319, 8003, 6874, 5641, 5083, 4537, 4005, 3324, under the name of **Harry G. Fullen and/or Rosa R. Fullen.** If no contest after one (1) year new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 24, Mar. 3 & 10, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH CLVIII (158)
PASIG CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
FOR REHABILITATION OF:

CIVIL CASE NO. 68343

FIRST DOMINION PRIME HOLDINGS, INC., NAUTICA CANNING CORPORATION, CLEARWATER TUNA CORPORATION (formerly known as INGLENOOK FOODS CORPORATION), AND MARANAW CANNING CORPORATION,
Petitioners.
x———————————————x

ORDER

This is a Petition for Rehabilitation filed by petitioners First Dominion Prime Holdings, Inc. ("FDPHI"), Nautical Canning Corporation ("NCC"), Maranaw Canning Corporation ("MCC") and Clearwater Tuna Corporation ("CTC") which among others, prays for the issuance of a Stay Order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation. These interim rules were approved by the Supreme Court on November 21, 2000 under A.M. No. 00-8-10-SC and took effect on December 15, 2000 after their publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Petitioners allege that they are primarily engaged in the tuna canning business and claim to be the largest tuna processor in Philippines and also the second largest in Asia in terms of installed production capacity at 480 mt/day or 38% of the Philippines' total tuna canning capacity.

Petitioners further allege that beginning in 1994, seeking to take advantage of a perceived shift in the tuna industry base from Thailand to Southern Philippines due to the latter's proximity to the primary fishing grounds for tuna and the development of modern infrastructure in General Santos City, petitioners steadily increased their combined production capacity through acquisitions and leases of additional canneries, and also invested in a can-making plant and a US cannery. These moves paid off as by 1998, or after only four years of business, petitioners' sales had almost tripled at P3,460,545,502, from P1,232,030,793 in 1995. In 1998 their exports were accounted for 48% of the total tuna exports of the Philippines to the United States, the world's largest importer of canned tunas. Also, 61% of Philippine tuna exports to the United Kingdom, the 3rd largest importer of canned tuna in the world, came from the petitioners. Likewise, 44% of the total Philippine exports of canned tuna to Germany was from petitioners. Overall, petitioners accounted for 6% of the total world canned tuna import market.

Petitioners state that for the achievement of their objective of becoming a major player in the tuna canning business and pushing the Philippines to the forefront of the industry, they needed substantial infusions of capital to finance their assets purchases and improvements and fund their highly capital-intensive operations. Two (2) rounds of private capital raising were completed in 1995 and 1996, but at the same time, petitioners resorted to availment of financial accommodations from various banks (short-term dollar loans, short-term peso loans, and term dollar loans). While they took steps in 1996 towards an initial public offering (IPO) in 1997, the proceeds of which would have been used to settle the loans and fund additional capital requirements, the Asian financial crisis and the slump in the local economy suddenly created adverse market conditions which prevented petitioners' planned IPO.

Worse, petitioners' US-dollar loans which they planned to retire, rapidly ballooned in peso value due to the drastic peso devaluation. The foreign exchange losses of petitioners amounted to P600,100,000.00 in 1997. Net interest expenses rose from P97,547,000.00 in 1997 to a staggering P248,751,000.00 in 1998, P247,348,000.00 in 1999, and P275,147,000.00 in 2000.

After Private Placement Offers (PPOs) in 1998 in lieu of the IPO, petitioners were able to raise P200 Million from Singapore's DBS Capital Investment Ltd. and the Taiwan Asia Pacific Venture Fund Ltd. Moreover, after an P800 Million private offering of petitioner FDPHI's common shares, FCF Fishery Co. Ltd. of Taiwan, the world's largest tuna fist supplier, invested P122 Million in petitioner FDPHI in December 1999.

In 2000, Singapore's Intraco, San Miguel Corporation, and the National Development Company (for ERAP Bonds) expressed interest in staking the petitioners. To date, other investor groups remain likewise interested, but are awaiting the results of the restructuring of petitioners' bank obligations. These include United Resources Asset Management, Inc. (Philippines), FMF Development Corporation (Philippines), and Chevalier (HK) Limited (Hongkong).

In the meantime, in the wake of the 1997 financial crisis, petitioners enforced cost-cutting measures. They also fully disclosed and explained to their bank creditors their financial condition and plans to remedy the situation at that time.

Until the first quarter of 2000, petitioners managed to keep up with its debt servicing to their creditor banks, which however reduced the available working capital needed to optimize petitioners' capacity utilization. The erosion of working capital and the breakdown of talks with potential investors eventually led to the petitioners' declaring a moratorium in payments of interest and principal to their creditor banks. Without the much-needed capital infusion into the business, petitioners were eventually rendered unable to service their obligations as the same fell due.

Petitioners state that since April 2000, they have been meeting with their creditors to negotiate a restructuring scheme and to discuss their proposed strategies to achieve a turn-around of their business. While petitioners believed that closing an agreement with most of the unsecured bank creditors was just a matter of time, on January 5, 2001, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company filed a Notice of Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of petitioner NCC's real property in General Santos City, compelling petitioners to file this Petition to protect the interests of its workers, creditors and stockholders.

As of the filing of the Petition, petitioners have at least two hundred nine (209) creditors and an aggregate liability of P3,135,695,000.00. On the other hand, as of 31 December 2000, the combined assets of the petitioners totalled P2,337,175,000.00.

The Petition was accompanied by the required documentary supports attached to it as Annexes "A" to "M", which the Court duly examined, as follows:

(i) ANNEX "A" – Petitioners' Brochure providing a profile of its business, organization, and other information
(ii) ANNEX "B" – Petitioners' Consolidated Financial Documents
ANNEX "B-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999
ANNEX "B-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000
ANNEX "B-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001
ANNEX "B-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "B-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets of, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "B-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility.
ANNEX "B-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "B-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(iii) ANNEX "C" – Petitioner FDPHI Documents
ANNEX "C-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "C-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "C-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "C-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "C-5" – None.
ANNEX "C-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "C-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "C-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(iv) ANNEX "D" – Petitioner MCC Documents
ANNEX "D-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "D-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "D-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "D-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "D-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "D-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility.
ANNEX "D-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Disposition of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "D-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(v) ANNEX "E" – Petitioner NCC Documents
ANNEX "E-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "E-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "E-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "E-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "E-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "E-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "E-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition
ANNEX "E-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months
(vi) ANNEX "F" – Petitioner CTC Documents
ANNEX "F-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "F-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "F-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "F-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claim as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "F-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "F-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "F-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Disposition of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "F-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(vii) ANNEX "G" – FDCP, INC Documents
ANNEX "G-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "G-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "G-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001
ANNEX "G-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claim as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "G-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "G-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the person from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility.
ANNEX "G-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition
ANNEX "G-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(viii) ANNEX "H" – Philtuna Packing Corporation Documents.
ANNEX "H-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "H-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "H-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "H-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claim as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "H-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereof, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "H-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility.
ANNEX "H-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Disposition of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "H-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(ix) ANNEX "I" – The Rehabilitation Plan proposed by petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, conforming to the minimal requirements set out in Section 5, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation.
(x) ANNEX "J" – The Statement of Possible Claims by or against petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies which contains a brief statement of the facts which might give rise to the claim and an estimate of the probable amount thereof.
(xi) ANNEX "K" – The Affidavit of General Financial Condition containing the answers to the questions or matters prescribed in Annex "A" of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation.
(xii) ANNEX "L" – The List of Three (3) Nominees for the position of Rehabilitation Receiver as well as their qualifications and addresses, including but not limited to their telephone numbers, fax number and e-mail addresses.
(xiii) ANNEX "M" – The Verified Certification attesting that the (a) filing of the Petition has been duly authorized; and (b) the directors and have irrevocably approved and/or consented to, in accordance with existing laws, all actions or matters necessary and desirable to rehabilitate the debtor including, but not limited to amendments to the articles of incorporation and by-laws, increase or decrease in the authorized capital stock, issuance of bonded indebtedness, alienation, transfer, or encumbrance of assets of the debtor, and the modification of shareholder's rights.

The proposed Rehabilitation Plan of the petitioners, Annex "I" of the Petition, has the following salient features:

(a) Raising P500 Million in fresh equity in two stages, from new as well as existing investors to correct its capital structure and improve gearing ratio as well as to provide working capital to optimize the utilization of the canneries' installed production capacities. Raising this amount in two stages instead of one is necessitated by the existing lack of investor confidence carried over from the immediately preceding Government Administration, the perceived political instability in the country, and issues of peace and order, particularly in Mindanao. A two-stage exercise would make it easier to surmount these perceptions.

(b) Forming of strategic alliances with other investors, including alliances with other investors, including joint ventures and similar arrangements;

(c) Continuing improvements in product costs, developing new markets, and focusing on premium markets which would yield higher gross profit margins;

(d) Maintaining and improving its presence in its traditional export markets;

(e) Servicing and eventual full repayment of all debts and liabilities, focusing on debt restructuring, inclusive of conversion of debt to equity or quasi-equity.

Petitioners allege that their rehabilitation shall benefit the general body of creditors, employees, stockholders, and the Government because creditors will get paid, employees will retain their jobs, those retrenched will be rehired, trade suppliers will be given increased business, stockholders will earn on their investments, and the government will profit from taxes collected.

WHEREFORE, the Petition being sufficient in form and substance, a stay order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation is issued as follows:

(a) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, including the extra-judicial foreclosure proceedings in EJF Case No. 01-02, entitled "Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. vs. Nautica Canning Santos City, against petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, comprising of petitioner First Dominion Prime Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiaries, petitioners Nautica Canning Corporation, Maranaw Canning Corporation and Clearwater Tuna Corporation, their guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the petitioners;

(b) Prohibiting petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties, except in the ordinary course of business;

(c) Prohibiting petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of filing of the Petition;

(d) Prohibiting the suppliers of goods or services of petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies from withholding supply of goods and services in the course of business for as long as petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order; and

(e) Directing the payment in full of all administrative-expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

Mr. Monico V. Jacob is appointed rehabilitation receiver who can assume the position upon his taking an oath and after posting a bond in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand (P500,000.00) Pesos, executed in favor of petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, to guarantee that he will faithfully discharge his duties and the orders of this Court.

Let this Stay Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks from date of the Order.

All creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) are directed to file and serve on the petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, their verified comment on, or opposition to, the Petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing. Within such time as to enable all creditors and interested parties to file their comment on, or opposition to, the Petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of the Petition, they are directed to secure from this Court copies of the Petition and its annexes.

Let the initial hearing of the Petition be set on April 19, 2001 at 8:30 in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City; February 22, 2001.

(Sgd.) JOSE R. HERNANDEZ
Judge

(PDI – March 3, 2001)

INT'L CAPITAL MARKETS

IMF sets up new unit to spot crises earlier

WASHINGTON—In a preemptive move aimed at helping it spot crises in emerging economies sooner, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday it would set up a new International Capital Markets department.

The widely expected move should help the Washington-based lender spot liquidity crunches in countries like Turkey and Argentina before they could have a crippling effect that would require bailouts costing billions of dollars, analysts said.

Ever since the Asian financial crisis, which started in Thailand in 1997 before rocking the region and spreading as far afield as Brazil and Russia, IMF critics have accused the lender of being too slow to spot problems.

The new department, along with a raft of earlier reforms, also addresses a key concern of new US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who is keen to see the fund develop into a more proactive organization than it has been in the past.

The fund said in a statement that the new department would offer it greater surveillance of capital markets around the world, allowing it to not just spot problems earlier but also to manage crises when they do occur.

The new unit will take staff and operations from three existing IMF departments. New responsibilities will include developing closer relationships with major commercial banks.

Wall Street traders often complain that the IMF is too rarefied and does not have a firm grasp on the realities of the day-to-day vagaries of financial markets.

The new department will also work on conceptual work about improving the international financial system and access to capital markets by member countries.

"I see this department as a vital part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the international financial architecture and, in particular, to strengthen the fund's role in crisis prevention," IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler said in a statement.

"With this move, the fund is sending a clear signal that it is serious about its commitment to being a center of excellence for work on financial markets issues," he added.

Koehler said he hoped to appoint a head for the unit with the appropriate professional background and experience as soon as possible.

The move follows the recommendations of an independent panel commissioned by Koehler to see how the fund could improve its understanding of capital markets.

Earlier this week, O'Neill alluded to the IMF doing a better job spotting problems.

"If we in the world do our work well that there will be less fire-fighting and more polishing the fire engines because we will anticipate difficult situations in countries, that could result in a financial unwinding of affairs in a particular country," O'Neill said.

Indeed, the straight-talking US treasury secretary said in the last 20 years, few financial crises came as much of a surprise to people who pay attention to such matters.

"And that tells me that it is possible with the right kind of intelligent application of ideas to anticipate and to take action to make sure that we don't have a fire," he said.

The new department should make O'Neill feel more confident that the IMF is at least covering all the bases and that if a crisis does occur, that it made a full effort to spot it.

Since the Asian crisis, the IMF has made a whole host of changes after a number of savage debates in the US Congress when it needed increased funding.

Among those changes are higher interest rates to encourage countries to become less reliant on IMF funds, precautionary loans to protect countries with good policies from suffering as a result of crises elsewhere, more transparency at the fund itself and audits of all countries receiving IMF cash in an effort to ensure the money it used for the right purposes. *Reuters*

Hong Kong spending seen at 21%

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong government sees total government spending at HK$252.670 billion in fiscal year 2001-2002, according to a briefing document given to legislators.

It said total public spending, including government spending plus outlays from agencies such as the housing authority, would be HK$290.665 billion, or 21.4 percent of gross domestic product.

For fiscal 2000-2001, the government had estimated total public spending at 21.9 percent of GDP.

Financial Secretary Donald Tsang will make his sixth and final budget speech on March 7.

With weakening global demand choking the territory's exports and domestic consumption still weak, no new major tax proposals or tax breaks are expected for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Instead, Tsang is likely to trumpet recent growth figures in a bid to shore up confidence in the economy's slow but steady recovery from Asia's 1997-1998 financial crisis.

Tsang's recent appointment to the territory's second most powerful post of chief secretary, effective in April, also suggests a budget with few surprises, analysts have said. *Reuters*

Oracle says it will miss Q3 target

SAN FRANCISCO—Database giant Oracle Thursday warned that profits would be off for its coming third quarter reports, blaming the sluggish US economy for the world's second largest software maker's woes.

Oracle said it now expects a 10 cents a share profit for the third quarter, which ended Wednesday. That's two cents per share less than Wall Street predictions.

Oracle's bombastic chief executive, Larry Ellison, said in a statement that companies were delaying purchases of the companies database software, which tracks information for large companies such as banks and airlines.

"A substantial number of our customers decided to delay their IT spending based on the economic slowdown in the United States," Ellison said.

Computer maker Gateway, telecommunications equipment 3Com and other Silicon Valley companies have also been warning of less-than-expected performances due to a general economic slowdown. *AFP*

PEDESTRIANS are reflected on an electronic stock board displaying a downward curve in downtown Tokyo. Amid recent bearish sentiment over Japan's economy, the 225-issue Nikkei stock average shed 1.4 percent to end the morning session at 12,503.56, extending its 15-year low. *AP*

Indonesia says it will continue rupiah support

JAKARTA—Indonesia's central bank said Friday it would continue to intervene in foreign exchange markets after the national currency, the rupiah, weakened to 9,875 against the dollar—its lowest level since two years ago.

"We will intervene if necessary," said Sjahril Sabirin, Bank Indonesia's governor, told reporters.

Sabirin said the rupiah was shaken by the ethnic violence in Kalimantan which claimed 469 lives and political maneuvers to impeach President Abdurrahman Wahid.

Wahid, who is currently on his last leg of a 15-day tour of North Africa and the Middle East, is facing pressure to resign after the parliament censured him in early February of being involved in two financial scandals.

The rupiah could have slid to 10,000 against the dollar, if the central bank had not implemented new foreign exchange regulations earlier this year, Sabirin added.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund signaled their support to Indonesia saying it backed a move by legislators to allow the sale of two nationalized banks to foreign investors. IMF's Indonesian representative, John Dodsworth told Dow Jones Newswires.

"I would say we welcome the decision of the parliament," Dodsworth said. "I think it was a difficult decision to make and they did a commendable job."

A special parliamentary commission approved the sale of Bank Central Asia and Bank Niaga late Thursday but Dodsworth said it remains unclear when the deal would be finalized. *AP*

Taiwan plans wider piracy crackdown

TAIPEI—Facing US pressure, Taiwan is planning a wider crackdown on fake videos and compact disks, a lucrative industry controlled largely by the mafia, an official said yesterday.

The government is drafting a bill that would give officials more power to search factories and track the import and sale of equipment used to make pirated disks and videos, said Lu Wen-hsiang of the Ministry of Economics. Currently, officials focus more on seizing the disks on the market.

During an annual review of Taiwan's intellectual property rights this week, US officials urged the island to work harder to stop counterfeiting.

After China, Taiwan is the second largest exporter of fake compact disks, according to a US study. Last year, US Customs officials seized $6 million in Taiwanese-made pirated goods. They seized $15 million in Chinese-made goods, $3.9 million from Malaysia and $3.5 million from Hong Kong.

Taiwanese officials are concerned because next month, the United States is scheduled to release a list of countries subject to severe trade sanctions because of counterfeiting.

"Pirating has bloomed because technological advancement has allowed companies to make fake goods much easier, faster and cheaper," Lu said. *AP*

Bankruptcy debate reaches US Senate

WASHINGTON—The House has quickly approved legislation making it tougher for people to use bankruptcy to erase credit-card and other debts. The Senate is the next stop on the bill's journey back to the White House.

Vetoed late last year by then-President Bill Clinton, bankruptcy overhaul was the first major bill to come to a vote in the new Congress. The House voted 306-108 for it Thursday, with majority of Republicans solidly in support and Democrats split.

An expectation that President George W. Bush will sign the measure has increased momentum for passage of the most sweeping changes to bankruptcy laws in 20 years. It raced through the House drafting process despite new government data that show personal bankruptcies have declined in recent years.

The legislation's progress has been only slightly slower in the Senate, where the two parties have a 50-50 split, and Democrats recently blocked a Republican effort to rush it through. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Wednesday, 10-8, to approve a parallel bill and send it to the full Senate, which may vote next week.

Sen. Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican and an author of the legislation, said the bill "closes the loopholes exploited by big spenders who walk away from debts they could otherwise repay."

But Sen. Paul Wellstone, a Minnesota Democrat, a leading opponent of the measure, signaled a possible filibuster by saying, "I'm not going to give up my opportunity to talk about how harsh this legislation is."

The legislation has been pushed by the banking and retail credit industries. Consumer groups, unions and groups representing women and children oppose the measure.

The bill was passed overwhelmingly last year, then was vetoed in December by Clinton, who contended it would hurt ordinary people and working families who fall on hard times. *AP*

Greenspan no knight in shining armor

NEW YORK—Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan has declined, at lenst for now, the role of knight in shining armor to a stock market in distress.

His testimony to lawmakers on Wednesday left Wall Street with the impression that there was only the slimmest chance for an emergency interest rate cut before the Fed's next scheduled meeting on March 20. Another half-percentage point reduction in key rates was expected at that time.

The speech did little to soothe the ravaged Nasdaq composite index, an index dominated by technology shares that lost 22 percent of its value in February. The Nasdaq spent most of Thursday in negative territory though it rallied at the end of the session to end 1.5-percent higher.

Greenspan, in the second leg of his twice-yearly testimony on the economy to Congress, did not hint at any urgency to cut rates immediately based on the broad economy's recent performance. So few things, barring a broad and chaotic sell-off in markets broadly, could prompt a move before the Fed's next regular meeting, economists concluded.

"Absent a calamitous decline in the stock market, I don't think he is going to go until March 20," said Dana Johnson, head of research at Banc One Capital Markets.

"Greenspan is trying to walk a fine line between sounding attentive to downside risks and not addicting the stock market to inter-meeting rate moves," he added.

At this stage, analysts said the Fed was clearly focused on the longer-term horizon, putting them at odds with markets that wanted instant gratification.

Greenspan on Wednesday signaled that more rate cuts were likely by saying the economy appeared to be on track for an excessively weak performance. US growth in the last three months of 2000 slowed to a crawl, up only 1.1 percent on an annual basis.

But the influential Fed chief dashed Wall Street's high hopes for immediate action by stressing the Fed's preference for changing rates at scheduled meetings and by observing that the economy did not look as weak in January and February as it did at the end of last year.

That weakness prompted the Fed to cut overnight borrowing costs by one full percentage point to 5.50 percent in January.

There had been intense speculation before the testimony that Greenspan would drop some sort of hint of an inter-meeting move like the half-point cut on Jan. 3 which took markets by surprise and sent the Nasdaq temporarily into orbit.

Pierre Ellis, an economist at Decision Economics in New York, said a steep stock market sell-off at the start of January pressured the Fed to act then.

"They are very afraid of going down the path of seeming to be too concerned about what the stock market does on a day to day basis," he said.

Roger Ferguson, vice chair of the Fed who spoke one day before Greenspan, said he was somewhat puzzled because despite a sharp deterioration in consumer sentiment lately, household spending appeared to be surprisingly resilient. Economists generally think confidence and spending move in lock-step. *Reuters*

US carmakers report slide in February sales

DETROIT—Major US automakers continued to report slumping domestic sales, with the US economic wobbliness contributing to their 10-percent slide in February. But analysts cautioned against unfair comparisons to February 2000—one of the US auto market's strongest months ever.

General Motors Corp. reported on Thursday a 9.5-percent dip in its sales for last month, Ford Motor Co. said its sales tumbled 11 percent, and DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler arm weighed in with a 10.5-percent drop.

Foreign automakers fared better, with Asian players posting a 5-percent gain in US sales in February, led by Mazda's 24-percent increase and Honda's 9-percent jump.

European automakers slipped just 2 percent in US sales last month, with BMW posting a 19-percent gain and Volkswagen a 7-percent drop.

Among the 23 automakers who reported their latest US sales figures Thursday, overall February demand for cars fell off 5 percent, while truck sales dropped 7 percent.

"I think they're good numbers," Prudential Securities analyst Michael Bruynesteyn said. "They're a little better than expected in light of the fact February of last year went so incredibly well."

Overall, the US auto companies posted a 9-percent drop in cars and an 11-percent decline in trucks.

US automakers still expect domestic sales this year to come in between 16 million and 16.5 million units, well off last year's record 17.4 million, but still considered acceptable given the softening market.

February's sales comparisons were adjusted to reflect 24 selling days in February compared with 25 in the same month last year. Sales at GM, Ford and DaimlerChrysler did not include their foreign brands.

GM's latest results include a 9-percent slump in car sales, a 10-percent drop in demand for light trucks.

Given "clearly a degree of fragility in the mindset of consumers, we're pretty pleased with our sales results here," said Paul Ballew, GM's director of market analysis. *AP*

Investor group tops American bid for TWA

WILMINGTON, Delaware—An independent investor group bid to buy Trans World Airlines Inc. on Wednesday for substantially more cash than American Airlines parent AMR Corp. offered for the bankrupt carrier.

St. Louis-based TWA, the No. 8 US airline, said Jet Acquisitions Group offered $889 million compared with the $500-million offer from American. Jet Acquisitions was previously described by a spokesman as a group of "aviation experts and major investors," but had kept the identities of its members identities a secret.

TWA has agreed to be bought by American, the world's second largest airline, but ultimately the bankruptcy court will decide which offer is the best way TWA can be reorganized and continue as a going concern.

"There's more to what we're bidding than just the cash," said American spokesman Al Becker. He said American was not aware of any other bidder having put in the research American did on its bid, which would preserve most of TWA's operations and offer employment to its 18,000 unionized workers.

"We put together an outstanding package that we fervently believe will be seen as the superior plan," Becker said. "In the end, the test is what is in the best interests of the employees, the communities TWA serves and the creditors."

In a statement earlier this month, Jet Acquisitions spokesman Stanford Lerch had said his group would bid $1 billion for TWA and keep the airline independent. But the group's plan and identity remained a mystery. ***Reuters***

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS STATE

Worst yet to come for Japan

TOKYO—Japan's stumbling economy is teetering on the brink of a deeper crisis as falling prices eat into corporate profits and with the January jobless rate standing at a post-war record, analysts warn.

"The economy is in an extremely dangerous state," said Tsubasa Research Institute economist Takao Hattori. "The pace of deterioration will pick up further in the second half of this year."

Japan's 4.9-percent unemployment rate was at its highest level since World War II in January, the public management ministry said. It also revised up the December figure to the same level from an initially reported 4.8 percent.

The ministry, meanwhile, revised down the rate for February and March last year to 4.8 from 4.9 percent to reflect seasonal adjustments.

"An increasing number of people, who had given up on job opportunities, are re-entering the job market," a ministry official said of the rise in the jobless rate.

The number of the unemployed rose by 80,000 during the month to 3.17 million, marking the fifth consecutive monthly increase.

A separate report by the health, labor and welfare ministry said the ratio of job offers to job seekers fell in January for the first time in 20 months to 0.65 from 0.66. This meant there were 65 job offers for every 100 job seekers.

Analysts warned the grim data proved that the ailing economy was continuing to spiral down, choked by a speeding deflationary trend.

"The continuous fall in consumer prices is seriously dragging down corporate profit, which then forces firms to slash employment costs," said Hattori.

Consumer prices in January stayed flat for the second consecutive month after dipping 0.2 percent month-on-month in November. But core prices, excluding fluctuations in fresh food prices, dropped 0.5 percent after a 0.1-percent decline in December.

Compared with the previous year, core prices fell for the 16th consecutive month by 0.5 percent in January, following a 0.6-percent decline in December.

"I do not hold out any prospect that deflationary concerns will recede," said Akihiko Suzuki, a senior market analyst at Sanwa Researching and Consulting.

Deflation will further accelerate later in the year due to government cuts to public works spending and sluggish growth in corporate capital spending, analysts predict.

"The economy will head toward a more severe slowdown," Suzuki warned.

The means of escaping a deeper crisis were extremely limited, analysts noted, saying minor cosmetic measures would no longer work.

"The first and most urgent requirement is further monetary easing by the Bank of Japan," Tsubasa's Hattori said. "And the government may not be able to avoid introducing a supplementary budget. This is how serious conditions are getting."

Despite the central bank's 0.1-percentage-point cut on Wednesday to key interest rates, mounting fears over the economy drove the Tokyo Stock Exchange's Nikkei 225 index down 1.4 percent to end Friday's morning session at 12,503.56.

Other data showed Wednesday Japan's industrial output in January fell 3.9 percent from the previous month. ***AFP***

WorldCom gives out 6,000 pink slips

NEW YORK—Voice and data services company WorldCom Inc. on Wednesday laid off about 6,000 workers, or about 6 to 7 percent of its global workforce, in a move to cut costs ahead of its restructuring, sources close to the company said.

WorldCom, which plans to separate its floundering consumer and wholesale long-distance telephone operations from its data and Internet business, declined to comment.

Surprisingly few workers were laid off, the sources said. The Clinton, Mississippi-based company had been rumored to slash up to 11,550 jobs, or 15 percent of its 77,000-person workforce in the United States. WorldCom employs another 13,000 workers internationally.

WorldCom fired about 6,000 workers, but the exact number of layoffs was not immediately available. It was unclear whether the company would need to take a charge to cover the cost of any severance packages.

One source said the company cut workers in all areas of the company, rather than just in the traditional long-distance business as rumored.

WorldCom has been working to cut costs and refocus its business on more lucrative and faster-growth data and Internet services. The company, which in November slashed its growth outlook through 2001, has been plagued by increased competition and pricing pressure in the long-distance market.

Layoffs are rare at WorldCom, the one-time Wall Street darling created by about 60 mergers over the past decade. WorldCom previously cut about 2,300 jobs in 1998 to trim expenses after its $40-billion acquisition of MCI Communications Inc.

Earlier this month, local telephone company Verizon Communications said it would cut 5 percent of the "equivalent headcount" in its core telephone unit's workforce, or the equivalent of 10,000 employees.

Communications equipment makers such as JDS Uniphase Corp., Nortel Networks Corp., Lucent Technologies Inc. and Motorola Inc. also have announced layoffs.

Under WorldCom's restructuring plan, which was announced Nov. 1, WorldCom Inc. will retain its name but it will have two separately traded tracking stocks to reflect the performance of different portions of a company's operations.

The "WCOM" stock symbol will track the company's core data, Internet, Web hosting, corporate telephone and international businesses. ***Reuters***

3Com lowers third quarter profit outlook

SAN FRANCISCO—Networking equipment maker 3Com Corp. on Wednesday warned that it would lose twice as much money in its upcoming third quarter as it previously forecast, blaming a slowdown in the telecommunications market and the US economy.

The Santa Clara, California, company said it would report revenues of between $625 million and $640 million for the quarter ending March 2, down from the previous forecast of $725 million to $750 million it gave at its last conference call.

3Com now expects to report an operating loss, excluding charges, of $235 million to $245 million, more than double its previous loss estimate of $80 million to $100 million.

The company said earlier this week that it would lay off 1,200 employees, including 10 percent of its full-time workforce. ***Reuters***

Asiana Airlines invests $216M in enhancements

SEOUL—Korean flag carrier Asiana Airlines has announced a five-year investment plan worth $216 million for safety and service enhancements during its recent 13th anniversary celebration. The airline, valued at over $700 million, now has over 6,500 employees around the world.

"Our investment will be split between $60 million in safety enhancements and $156 million in service enhancements to provide our customers both the peace of mind and comfort that they have come to enjoy on Asiana," said Chan Bup Park, president and chief operating officer.

Asiana will progressively introduce new and next generation equipment to its growing fleet of aircraft, which has an average age of only three and a half years.

Enhanced ground proximity warning systems are set to be installed in 42 of Asiana's fleet of 55 aircraft.

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines invites prospective bidders for the:

Supply/provision/implementation of one (1) lot

Software and Services for DBP's Trade Finance and Remittance System

Prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid conference on March 12, 2001 at the Procurement Services Division, PMU/PSM, 6th Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City at 1:30 p.m. Only bidders present at the pre-bid conference shall be allowed to attend the bidding on the date which will be announced after the pre-bid conference. Suppliers which have successfully installed a similar system in a Philippine bank with a volume equal or greater than DBP's trade transaction shall be given preference.

PROPERTY & SECURITY MANAGEMENT

(PDI – Mar. 2, 3 & 5, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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(PDI - March 3 & 4, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will hold a pre-bidding and bidding conference among NFA accredited grains suppliers on **March 13** and **15, 2001**, respectively at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the supply of the following commodities.

a. THIRTY THOUSAND (30,000) metric tons, 10% MOLSO, White Kernelled Corngrains equivalent to US Grade #2 or better, in bulk for April/May 2001 arrival of US origin for discharge in Cebu.

b. SIX THOUSAND NINETY THREE (6,093) metric tons (min./max) Yellow Corngrains equivalent to US Grade #2 or better, in bags or in bulk for April/May, 2001 arrival of omnibus origin for discharge in Manila or Cebu.

Price offers must be quoted as follows:

a. For yellow corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO, 1-2 SB, Manila, in bag.
b. For white corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO, 1-2 SB, Cebu, in bulk.
c. Combined loading of cargo for both yellow and white corn acceptable, in which case, price offers must be quoted as follows:
   c.1. For yellow corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO, 1-2 SB, 1 SP Cebu or Manila, in bag or in bulk.
   c.2. For white corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO 1-2 SB, Cebu, in bulk.

Suppliers bidding for yellow corn cargo are required to submit bids in bulk and in bags otherwise their bids will be invalidated.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total offer in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check issued/drawn from a reputable Metro Manila bank or demand draft in USD which must be drawn within Metro Manila or stand-by irrevocable L/C valid for 120 days.

Opening of bids will start at exactly 2:00 PM of the bidding date. Only those accredited by NFA shall be allowed to submit offers.

NFA accredited suppliers must submit documents to update records not later than **12 March 2001**, 5:00 PM. For further verification, please contact the Foreign Operations Division - DMO at telephone numbers 743-8696/740-1977/712-1708.

Further, those who wish to apply for accreditation shall have until **12 March 2001**, 5:00 PM to submit pertinent documents for accreditation. Requirements/checklist for accreditation may be secured from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor with Tel. Nos. 743-8696/740-1977/712-1708.

The pre-bidding conference shall be held on 13 March 2001 at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom to discuss the terms and conditions pertaining to the bidding and announce who are qualified to participate in the bid.

The bidding terms and conditions shall be available at the Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor starting **09 March 2001** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 2:00 PM at NFA Boardroom on 20 and 22 March 2001, respectively.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Chairman, PBAC
and Assistant Administrator

(PDI--March 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

sbma
PRE-QUALIFICATION BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
SBMA BUILDING 255, BARRYMAN ST. SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4214/ 4124/ 4424/ 4230/ 4424 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

28 February 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC") announces the extension of the submission of pre-qualification documents for the following services:

SBMA INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER (ISP)

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned sealed bidding;

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
6. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
7. Company PROFILE
   A) Company Information
      a) List of all relevant services/projects in the last five (5) years
      b) Roster of clients
         1. Brief description of client
         2. Length of services (indicate period covered)
         3. Internet access speed provided
         4. Amount/Cost of projects/services
   B) Technical Staff
      a) Curriculum vitae
         1. IT training/knowledge regarding the equipment, systems and its operation.
         2. Relevant certification
         3. Relevant experience/ exposure, (at least 2 years)
         4. Experience with the company (assigned projects and status)
8. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until **5:00 p.m.** of **March 8, 2001 (Thursday)**, at the PBAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.**
Secretary, PBAC

(PDI--March 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
PEZA

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)** invites interested authorized Philippine distributors to pre-qualify and eventually to bid, if qualified, for the supply and delivery of seven (7) units of Brand New Factory-Assembled/Packaged, Diesel Electric Generator Sets for the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ).

The generators must have a 60 KW (75 KVA) Stand-by power output at 1800 r.p.m.; 3-phase, steel frame and anti-vibration mounting pads; electric starting system with heavy duty lead acid type batteries; with 8 hours or more fuel tank capacity; automatic shutdown protection system and control monitoring devices; including other accessories, manuals, and training of personnel.

Tender documents may be secured from February 23-March 6, 2001 upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) from the PBAC Secretariat c/o Linda Cruz or Pauline Soliman at the 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis Sts., Pasay City.

Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than March 8, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset the expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to PEZA.

The Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 23, 25 & March 3, 2001)

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People, Events & Products
ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Cross-training shoes recalled

Nike Philippines is voluntarily recalling about 140 pairs of its Jordan Trunner 2000 Mid cross-training shoes. The shoe uses an innovative metal heel clip which was designed to create a higher level of comfort and a more personalized fit. However, Nike has discovered that on the shoe, there is a potential for the clip to protrude after a period of wear and may cause injury to the consumer.

The NIKE Jordan Trunner 2000 Mid shoes being recalled have a strip of metal about 4-inches long at the upper part at the back of the shoe. The shoes are size six and higher and has model number 136050. You will find the model number located above the UPC code on a label inside the heel of the shoe. The Trunner 2000 Mid was offered in one color: black and gray with fluorescent yellow trim. The name "JORDAN" appears in block letters near the shoelaces and on the bottom of the shoe, and "TRUNNER" appears on the back heel of the shoe over the metal strip.

These shoes were sold in Nike Park, Nike Stadium, Nike Zone and Planet Sports Filinvest last October 2000 for P3,995.00.

Consumers are being encouraged to stop using the Jordan Trunner 2000 and immediately return them to the store where purchased to receive a substitute product or a store credit. For more information, consumers should call Colo Ventosa at 848-9851 between 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or access the Nike website at www.nikebiz.com.

TOURNAMENT CHAMP

Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, co-presented the 6th Annual Mega Ladies Cup Tournament held recently at Tagaytay Midlands. Overall champion Lily Chan receives her trophy and cash prize from Mega Magazine's EVP Sari Yap and Earth+Style corporate communications head Joy Basilio-Madlansacay. With them are tournament director Dennis Huang and Celia Elumba of Igedo Fashions, Inc.

Dietary fiber aid to developing kids

LACTUM, the better alternative to full cream milk, has further intensified its marketing drive with the introduction of a new formula called Natural Inulin Fiber.

Extracted from the roots of the chicory vegetable, Natural Inulin Fiber helps prevent gastrointestinal infections to promote a healthy digestive system among children one year old and above.

"With this new innovation, mothers are guaranteed their kids will absorb all the nutrients they need in ensuring 100-percent nourishment," said Lactum associate product manager Guthrie Collado.

Lactum with Natural Inulin Fiber contains all natural ingredients children need in order to cope with the physical and intellectual demands of growing up, according to Collado.

He added that studies show Filipino children lack dietary fiber in their diets. This often leads to diarrhea, stomachache, gastrointestinal infections, and ultimately poor health. There must be adequate amounts of fiber in a child's diet in order for the digestive system to function well and absorb the nutrients.

A study conducted by the American Dietetic Association revealed that children as young as two years old should start consuming adequate amounts of dietary fiber and should continue this until they reach adulthood.

MSV RAFFLES OFF NOKIA

DTI representative Ma. Gracia Soller (second from left) is seen with Dottie Pineda, Ellen Lambinicio, Meg Nambio and Lerma Sen of Bookware Publishing Corporation during the seventh monthly draw of the "Nokia Raffle Promo" held recently at the company's offices in Pasig City. For My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, the lucky winner is Resurreccion Santiago of Muntinlupa City. For details, call 631-8893 to 94.

INQUIRER RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Greetings

Q. What was the first greeting card?

A. By all accounts, the first greeting cards were used to commemorate a most important day: the first day of the new year. An ancient Egyptian custom was to send presents on that day, along with some sort of written message. The Romans also believed that January 1 was time for gifts and greetings. An especially popular gift was a lucky penny, made of copper and bearing the likeness of janus, the Roman god with two faces, so that he might keep an eye on the past and future. The first modern greeting card for special occasions was designed by W. Harvey and engraved by John Thompson of London in 1829. The design was in the form of an elaborately decorated medallion surrounded by scrollwork and surmounted by the date, together with the words: *"To... on the ANNIVERSARIE of... day. From..."*

Name Game. Hallmark. The well-known make of greeting card takes its name from its American founder, Joyce Clyde Hall, who started a business selling postcards in Kansas City in 1910. When his whole stock was destroyed by fire in 1915, he and his brother started their own cards, eventually registering their brand name in 1923.

Past Forward. This day in 1923: The first issue of *Time* magazine appeared in New York City, after more than a year of editorial preparation by Henry Luce and Briton Hadden, two young Yale University graduates. Both believed there was a real need for a magazine that would present all the important events of the week in concise and lively prose. The maiden issue was 28 pages long, 6 of which were advertisements, and cost 15 cents.

WORD WATCH

Oras : from the Spanish *horas*, 'hours.'

ATTENTION : *Members of the Electronics Class-Batch '74 of Don Bosco-Makati are getting their act together very soon (about time, guys). Please contact Cesar "Einstein" Pascual (email: cesarp@rocketmail.com / celfone: 0917-8127477) or Erny "Cutie Boy" Cleofe (email: emcleofe@unilab.com.ph / celfone: 0917-5395057), or you'll miss out on all the fun and nostalgia.*

PDI - - March 3, 2001

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11th Death Anniversary

BRIG. GEN. OSCAR M. FLORENDO

who died on March 4, 1990
in Tuguegarao, Cagayan

Schedule of Masses on Sunday, March 4, 2001:

6:00 AM & 5:00 PM	**Multi-Faith Chapel** *Camp Crame, Quezon City*
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM	**St. Joseph's Cathedral** *Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City*
10:00 AM	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *UP Diliman, Quezon City*
7:00 AM	**Nayong Silangan Chapel** *Antipolo City*
7:00 AM	**Baguio City Cathedral**
6:30 AM	**St. Augustine Church** *Naguilian, La Union*

Blessing of the tombsite at Libingan ng mga Bayani will be at 4:00 in the afternoon. The family requests the pious readers to include "OCA" in their prayers.

Adela De Guzman-Valencia, Ph.D.
"Mama Del"

of Bauang, La Union

has joined the company of her Creator on March 1, 2001 at the age of 89.

Her bereaved daughters: **LOURDES (Nene) VALENCIA- FONTANILLA & ELEANOR (Niña)**; grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law: **JAMES; KEN & KIM; DAVE & TERESA** and **VINCE & TRICIA**; great grandchildren: **LUKAS, MICHAEL & ZACHARY**, nieces and nephews, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. John the Baptist Parish Church (Pinaglabanan), San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 4, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina City after the 2:00 P.M. Mass at the Pinaglabanan Church.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

MERCEDES CALANGI CASTILLO

of Talaga East, Mabini, Batangas "CHED"
who joined her Creator on February 11, 2001

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

GERONIMO I. IMPERIAL

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 1st day March 2001 at the age of 82.

His remains lie in state at PCHAI Multi-Purpose Bldg. (beside Sto. Rosario Parish Church) Pacita Complex I, San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment to be announced later.

De La Salle Santiago Zobel extends its condolences to the family of

Ma. Concepcion H. Lanto

High School Araling Panlipunan Coordinator of DLSZ

who has joined our Creator on March 1, 2001. She was 46 years old.

Her body lies at the Gym 1 of DLSZ from March 1, 2001 until early morning today, March 3, 2001 and will be brought to her family home in Quezon. May she rest in peace. Holy Masses will be celebrated on March 2, 2001 at the Gym 1 for her soul's eternal repose.

Regarding her 16 years of reaching in DLSZ, this is what her DLSZ family has to say: **"Mia equals commitment".**

Ang aming Mommy, si

CARIDAD CASTILLO PAGADUAN

ng Pateros, Metro Manila,

na laging maaalala namin sa kanilyang katutagan ng loob at kabutihan, ay mapayapang pumanaw noong Huwebes, Ika-1 ng Marso, 2001, alas-11:45 n.g.,

sa piling ng mga nagmamahal nilyang mga anak, sina **Patsy** at **Dave Schweickart, Jiji** at **Ted Nawalinski, Sonny** at **Bonnie Pagaduan, June** at **Willy Lopez, Mô** at **Jun Bandayrel**, at **Carol** at **Mike Araullo**; at mga apo, sina **Anita** at **Angus; Karen; Tommy** at **Beth; Larissa; Apol, Pao** at **Diwi; Kim, Kaye** at **Krissy**; at **Sandra** at **Atom**.

Kapiling na niya ngayon ang aming Daddy, si Tomas K. Pagaduan.

Siya ay nakaburol sa Loyola Memorial Chapels sa Guadalupe, Makati City.

Inaanyayahan namin ang kanilyang mga kamag-anak at kaibigan, pati na ang mga kaibigan namin, na taimtim sliyang ipagdasal, makigunita at makipagkwentuhan sa amin.

Ipapaalam namin ang mga detalye ng libing sa mga susunod na araw.

FLORENCIO A. ALBANO

of Vintar, Ilocos Norte, Caloocan and Parañaque City

March 01, 1914 to March 02, 2001

His wife **Anita de Joya Albano**; children **Barbara** and **Reinhard Kuhn, Marylou** and **Thomas W. Allen, Don** and **Vicky V. Albano, Voltaire** and **Eleanor M. Albano**; grandchildren **Jason, Donna** and **Ron**; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel - Premier I, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Atty. ROMEO LANTIN REYES

Of Lipa City
05 August 1932 - 04 March 2000

We remember our beloved DADDY on his first death anniversary. His loving memory will continue to linger in our hearts.

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory on 04 March 2001 at the following churches:

Holy Eucharist Church, Moonwalk, Parañaque City	9:00 AM
St. John Bosco Church, Pasay Road, Makati City	7:00 PM
San Ildefonso Church, Makati City	9:30 AM
St. Paul's Convent, Lipa City	10:00 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City	9:00 AM
Ouy Lady of Carmel Church, Lipa City	11:00 AM
Mary Help of Christians Church, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City	7:15 AM
St. Rita's College Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City	8:30 AM

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2 Corinthians 4:14

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Literary works digitized into a handy format

ALREADY recognized in the international market, an electronic book or eBook is a literary work in the form of a digital object, published or accessed electronically. eBook can also refer to the device or hardware created for the purpose of reading these books.

One of the more innovative IT firms in the Philippines, First Convergent Communications Worldwide, Inc (FCCWW) will soon launch the country's first e-book publishing software together with a pocket Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) capable of reading eBook programs.

Teaming up with one of the leading providers of e-reference books, FCCWW introduces hardware different from all other existing PDAs. This hardware emphasizes more the LCD display, the wider array of multimedia features, and the built-in security systems to protect programs and content from viruses. Best of all, with the hardware's expanding memory, it can store up to 20 textbooks in its 200 x 240 pixel frame, allowing users to "carry" around a shelf of books.

FCCWW also exclusively offers a program capable of converting hardcopy text to a textfile format. eBookfile can be downloaded with a PC, palm or notebook. FCCWW's products open an opportunity for multimedia capability for Philippine homes, schools and offices.

For more information on the eBook system, visit FCCWW's websites at www.ebookstoreplus.com, www.alemarsbooklight.com, www.cyberpantheon.com, and www.divisoria.com.

BRANCH INAUGURATION

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste was the guest of honor at the recent formal blessing and inauguration of Capricorn International Travel & Tours Inc. (CITTI) new branch inauguration located at the Celebrity Club in Diliman, Quezon City. Also in photo are Agnes Aguila-Banal, Linear Advertising account manager; Adynna Aquino, MZ E-Com sales and marketing manager; Teresita Bravo, MZ E-Com managing director; Bon Bon Alansalon, CITTI president and Geraldine Evangelista, Linear Advertising account director.

CBA SIGNING

The Home Cable Progressive Employees Union (HCPEU) and the Philippine Home Cable Holdings, Inc. (PHCHI) forged a 5-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) last Dec. 12, 2000 at the Horizon Hotel, Mandaluyong City. In photo are Home Cable president Ernest Fritz Server (seated, fourth from right) and HCPEU president Carlos Sanchez; (seated from left) Edwin Macalalad, Dennis Astilla, Union Legal Consultant lawyer Emmanuel Jabla; (seated, third from right) NCMB-NCR director Leopoldo De Jesus, management legal consultant lawyer Norman Versoza and NCMB conciliator Leonida Romulo. Others in photo are the union and management officers, Ramil Perey, Joel Soria, Darius Cabiles, Juan Marcelo, Romeo Arcabal, Fortunato Soriano, Rene Aranjuez, Allan Dimaculangan, Stephen Palma, Joel Chua, Eric Tonido, Hans Banzhaf-SVP operations; Francis Hernando-SVP finance and admin; Alberto Abadicio-AVP HR and Manuel Trovela, IR manager.

Get a Domino's Pizza franchise and get a world-class partner

GETTING a Domino's Pizza franchise means more than just starting a potentially profitable business. It means being business partners with the world leader in pizza delivery for more than 40 years – a company focused on quality products and delivery service excellence.

The organization considers its people – franchisees and team members – as its most important resources.

"Domino's is a 'people business,'" stresses Domino's Pizza LLC CEO Dave Brandon.

Successful Domino's franchisees all over the world share a common quality – that of being hands-on in the management of their stores. In fact, the company requires direct involvement of its franchisees in the day-to-day operations of its stores. This is Domino's way of ensuring that its values of fast and friendly service are passed on to anybody who joins the team. From store design to improving sales and operations, Domino's is a hands-on partner. PizzaVest Transnational Corp. (PTC), the master franchiser of Domino's Pizza in the Philippines, will manage store construction for the franchisee and provide comprehensive assistance in business planning and profitability analysis. Franchisees and team members are also given extensive training in a classroom environment before moving in-store for hands-on training. Franchisees are also required to attend a free Franchise Development Program held at the Domino's headquarters in Michigan, United States.

Since the company came to the Philippines in May 1994, Domino's has opened 30 stores in strategically located units within Metro Manila and nearby cities – bringing the company closer to its goal of becoming "the franchise of choice" in the country.

What makes Domino's more competitive is its variety of great-tasting products that complement a heart-friendly diet. Domino's uses a unique screen process that allows baking pizzas without oil. The special screen pan allows heat to pass through the dough resulting to a tender, crisp crust even without the use of oil. This is the reason Domino's Pizza boxes are never lined with grease-proof paper. The same oil-free process designed by Domino's founder Thomas Monaghan is used in all Domino's Pizza product lines in all of its stores all over the world.

For more information or for those interested in getting a franchise, please call 723-0797 and 723-2598 and ask for the franchise department.

ISO 9002 CERTIFICATION FOR GAC

GAC Shipping and Cargo Systems (Phils.) Inc. recently received ISO 9002 certification from Det Norske Veritas (DNV). GAC Phils. is a subsidiary of Gulf Agency Company, an international transport company engaged in shipping, marine and cargo services. In the Philippines, GAC is active in tramp and liner agency, domestic forwarding, international freight forwarding and customs brokerage. Shown are (from left) DNV Phils. lead auditor Darby Francisco; Javier F. Ceurva, president and managing director of GAC Phils; and William Hill, GAC regional manager for East Asia.

Arellano Law School announces new trimester program

ARELLANO Law School is set to launch the first-ever trimester law course this schoolyear 2001-2002. This new approach to the study of law covers daily day classes conducted in trimesters, instead of the traditional 4-year, 8-semester course. The Arellano Law School is the first law school in the country to develop and implement such a program.

The administration and faculty of Arellano Law School have devised this program with professional students in mind. "The Trimester Law Course will allow students to have more focus on their studies. Their normal load for one school year over two semesters will now be spread out over three terms, so they have fewer subjects per term," explained Arellano Law School dean Mariano Magsalin Jr.

Aside from having a lighter load per term so students can better concentrate on their subjects, the trimester law course will not cost more. "Our students will still pay the same amount for fees as they would in one year," announced Erik Lazo, admissions director. Students under the trimester law course will have the same curriculum and access to students services and facilities as those taking up the regular law course.

Arellano Law School has a complete legal library and utilizes the latest technology in order to enhance the learning process.

Aside from the 4-year law evening course and the trimester day classes, Arellano Law School also offers weekend Executive Law classes for those who cannot study law full-time.

Student applications for the trimester law course are now accepted. Entrance exams for 2001-2002 are likewise ongoing every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. Call Abigail Ng at 510-2856 to 57, local 33 (Manila campus) or Magdalena Rodrigo at (047) 237-0126 to 27 (Panilao, Bataan campus) for more details.

STELLA RUIZ PERFORMS AT BUGSY

Audiences were mesmerized by Stella Ruiz's sultry voice and sexy moves when she performed live at Bugsy, an acoustic and billiard hall located at the basement of Lansbergh Place, Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

ASIATRUST PROMO GRAND DRAW

Asiatrust Bank (ATB) held the grand draw of its "Dollar Give-Away, Hongkong Get-Away" promo during the Chinese New Year celebration with some of its valued clients. Prof. Charlie Chao, Feng Shui expert (fourth from left) gave a talk on the prospects for the Year of the Snake. Also in photo are ATB officers (from left) Roland Collado, FAVP, area head; Ivy Bondoc, Binondo BM; Jean Abiera, corporate communication officer; Charlie Villareal, J. Abad Santos BM; Cora Mallillin, FVP, branch banking group head; Maria Laraya, AVP marketing services; Susan Catindig, Caloocan BM and Emmanuel Balingit, Tutuban BM.

PILMICO SALES RALLY

The sales team of Aboitiz Group subsidiaries Pilmico Foods Corporation and Pilmico-Mauri Foods Corporation recently convened for their first sales rally for the year. Billed "Aim High, Sell High, Reach the Sky!," it was held at the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. office in Cebu City. Highlights of the rally included strategy presentations by Michael Tan, Pilmico vice president for sales and marketing (right), and district sales managers; sales support presentations by other departments; a team cheering contest; and the symbolic commitment ceremony. Also in photo is the Mindanao District sales team headed by district sales manager Danny Ibao (fourth from left

ASPAC STRATEGIC SESSION

The Aspac Advertising team poses for posterity after graduating from Module 1 of the Aspac Strategy School covering an exhaustive Marketing Trends and Case Analysis two-day workshop given by Jose G. Miranda, managing director of One-One-One Direct (third from left), at the AIM Conference Center. The session focused on marketing segmentation, product positioning, product value and data research vis-à-vis the consequential role of advertising. Shown with Jose Miranda are the associates from the different departments of Aspac Advertising.

Clips

'Kabaleyans' to a dinner-dance

ALL *kabaleyans* from Alaminos, Pangasinan, relatives and friends of Secretary Hernani A Braganza and Secretary Leonardo Q. Montemayor, are invited to a testimonial dinner-dance in their honor today, March 3, at 7 p.m. at the Kalayaan Ballroom, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Please call Jong Braganza (454-0684).

Cefam marriage preparation program

THE CENTER for Family Ministries (Cefam) has set a marriage preparations program on March 10 and 11 at the Spiritual-Pastoral Center, Ateneo Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The Cefam program focuses on enabling pre-marital couples to evaluate their level of maturity, values and authenticity of their love. The Marriage Expectation Inventory and the Genogram, an international history, are utilized to help couples appreciate their "complementarity" as a couple as well as determine areas they need to work on. The program puts emphasis on equipping the couples with communication skills vital to maintaining and nurturing marital intimacy. Certificates to fulfill both Church and government requirements will be issued upon completion. For further inquiries, call Cefam at 426-4289 to 92.

Factory Outlets Supermart opens soon

FACTORY Outlets Supermart, the first of its kind wholesale and retail supermart with super low prices, is set to open it's doors to shoppers and sari-sari store owners on March 2001. Located at Bargain Mart Complex in San Andres Malate corner Guerrero St., Factory Outlet Supermart will offer not only lower prices but longer shopping hours, according to Thelma Viloria, corporate spokesperson. Likewise, it shall offer small retail outlets the facility of purchasing their inventory at competitive rates to improve their margins. Aside from monthly raffle draws for customers, VIP cards shall also be issued to all shoppers in coordination with Bargain Mart shopping center so they can avail of the monthly birthday treat by the center for all its cardholders.

ERICSSON SPONSORS GTAAA

Globe Telecom welcomed Ericsson as a corporate sponsor to the 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA), the academic excellence recognition program of Globe Telecom. Shown here are (from left) Jones Campos, Globe AVP for public relations; Lawyer Rodolfo Salalima, Globe SVP for corporate affairs; Hasse Olausson, Ericsson vice president for account management, and Mona Magno-Veluz, Ericsson director for market development. Ericsson has been an avid supporter of the project for the fifth consecutive year.

CAPANALIG THANKSGIVING

Architect Nestor S. Mangio (extreme left), president and CEO of Central Country Estate, Inc., owner-developer of The Lakeshore project in Mexico, Pampanga, hosted recently a thanksgiving dinner for the Capanalig Foundation (a civic organization of prominent Pampanguenos in Metro Manila) in celebration of the success of Edsa People Power 2 and the assumption to the highest office in the land of their most prominent Cabalen, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Next to Mangio are (from left) Manila North Tollways Corporation president Jose de Jesus, former DPWH secretary Benigno Ricafort, Rene Cruz, Rep. Oscar Rodriguez and Conrad Ferreras.

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Healthy lifestyle prevents disease and prolongs life

BY THE CHARTER STAFF

THE SO-CALLED "clean living" enhances good health and prolongs life.

This is the observation of various scientific researches reported by Prof. J.A. Scharffenberg of the Loma Linda University in the United States.

Clean living means a healthy lifestyle consisting of a low-fat balanced diet, nonsmoking, avoidance of excessive alcohol and caffeine, sufficient exercise, adequate sleep and proper stress management. Healthy lifestyle habits have been considered by many clinicians and scientists as an important first step in the treatment of various ailments.

Scientific data show that lifestyle modification can effect many significant health gains and psychosocial benefits, such as improved glucose tolerance especially in diabetics; lower cholesterol levels; lesser degenerative joint problems and depression; and enhanced self-esteem, exercise tolerance and quality of life.

The United States government, through the National Institute of Health (NIH) has over the years funded researches on the Seventh Day Adventists (SDAs) amounting to more than $15 million. The SDAs have attracted scientific scrutiny because they are a distinct Christian denomination in which the maintenance of a healthy body is incorporated into their religious teachings.

Majority of SDAs are either pure vegetarian, eating only plant-based food, or lacto-ovo-vegetarian, eating plant-based food plus milk and eggs. They also do not smoke, drink alcohol or take caffeine-containing drinks. Sports, rest and recreation are strongly encouraged among members. Hence, the SDAs are considered a unique population living under a favorably atypical environmental conditions, making them an interesting subject for serious scientific studies

Fifty thousand SDAs, mainly in California, were studied for a period of over 20 years. A total of 240 scientific papers have now been written on them. This is considered by many health experts as the biggest and strongest body of evidence showing the benefits of healthy lifestyle habits.

Scharffenberg reported that SDA men who follow a strict healthy lifestyle lived 8.9 years longer, and women 7.5 years longer than the average Californian. Similar results have been shown in a number of studies done in other countries. The death rate from all diseases combined is approximately one-half that observed in the general population.

"This was attributed to the SDAs' nonsmoking, vegetarian diet, regular exercise, and avoidance of caffeine and alcohol," said Blessie Varona, head of the Health & Wellness Department of the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital and a trustee of the Foundation for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management.

In the Scharffenberg report, lung cancer in the SDA population was only 25 percent of the expected rate in the general population. Significantly less incidence rates were reported for cancer of the mouth, throat, larynx, uterus and urinary bladder. The SDAs also showed 32 percent less cases of bronchitis and emphysema than that found in the non-Adventist Californian population.

Since the SDAs do not drink, death rates from alcohol-related diseases were also significantly lower. "Esophageal cancer was 34 percent, and liver cirrhosis, only 13 percent of the expected rate in the general population," Varona said.

Varona added that death rates from other diseases such as leukemia, diabetes, coronary artery disease and even suicide were approximately half than what was observed in the general population. Varona also noted that within the SDA population, vegetarian SDAs had a relatively lower illness and death rates than the nonvegetarian SDAs.

According to the Scharttenberg report, regular vigorous exercise for 3 or more days a week, 15 minutes per session, reduced heart attacks by 40 percent in men and 56 percent in women. This is consistent with the well-known findings of Dr. Stephen Blair, a researcher from Texas, USA, who showed in his studies that walking regularly 2 miles a day appeared to reduce death rate from all causes by 55 percent.

A surprising finding in the Scharffenberg paper was that men who drank 1-2 cups of coffee daily appeared to have a higher incidence of coronary artery disease or narrowing of the heart arteries than noncoffee drinkers. The same observation was noted in women who were regular coffee drinkers. Varona however added that studies in the general population do not support this finding.

Varona is convinced that available scientific data show the concrete medical benefits of a healthy lifestyle, which is also referred to as nonpharmacologic treatment by health experts. "Before one starts thinking of taking pills to preserve or restore health, one should institute first healthy lifestyle changes," Varona advised.

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Theraphies, Epidemiology and Risk-management. It is a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation which evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle modification, on atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases. It is based at the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital.)

BRIGHT FLAT SURFACE REUTER/NASA

Images of Jupiter's largest moon, Ganymede, from the Galileo and Voyager space missions show a bright flat surface that scientists said on Feb. 28 was probably caused by eruptions of icy volcanic material. The scientists believe the data show that water or slush emerged one billion years ago. The moon is shown during Galileo's 14th orbit of Jupiter in January 1999.

New hope for patients suffering from loss of vision due to AMD

GOOD news for Filipinos who are suffering from loss of vision caused by Age-Related Macular Degeneration otherwise known as AMD.

AMD or Age-Related Macular Degeneration is the leading cause of severe loss of vision in people over the age of 40. Macular Degeneration, often related to aging, is a disease that progressively damages the center of the retina—macula--a light-sensitive tissue that provides us with central vision and allows us to see fine details, such as recognizing a face, reading, or watching television. When a macula becomes damaged, extreme and dramatic vision loss can occur.

We may not be aware of the notable effect of central vision loss on many aspects of our daily life. Difficulties in reading and writing will be experienced. The ability to perform simple tasks such as telling the time, recognizing an approaching family member or visitor will no longer be enjoyed. Quality of life of patients and their family members as well as communication, emotional well-being, household management and recreation are affected at all stages of AMD.

Most common cause

In western countries, the late stage of AMD is the most common cause of legal blindness in people over the age of 50. Small, round spots typically appear beneath the retina on the early stage. However, the late stage is usually accompanied by vision loss, which most often starts on one eye. Most people may initially not notice, or even ignore macular degeneration because of the vision compensated by the remaining healthy eye. The risk often ignored is that the damaged eye may affect the vision in the healthy eye.

There are 2 types of late stage AMD—the dry AMD and the wet AMD. Dry AMD, characterized by thinning of the macula and its failure to function, causes in some people the detection of "blank" areas in their central vision. The growth of abnormal blood vessels across the macula is the characteristic of wet AMD. These blood vessels leak fluid and blood at the back of the eye where scar tissues are formed that may cause loss of vision. So far, AMD has been largely untreatable, especially the dry type AMD. It is the wet AMD that is more serious yet, treatable type.

Breakthrough treatment

Today, Novartis Ophthalmics, the eye care business unit of Novartis Healthcare Philippines and one of the leading companies in Ophthalmology, introduces the major breakthrough treatment for the wet type of AMD: Verteporin therapy. Verteporin, a drug injected into the patient's bloodstream, is activated with the use of a specific laser in a procedure known as photodynamic therapy or PDT.

Photodynamic therapy (PDT) using Verteporfin has recently been introduced in the Philippines with the inauguration of the first PDT/Verteporfin Center in the country. Verteporfin was granted by the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration a compassionate use special permit with the Eye Referral Center as the recipient. Attended by respected eye specialists headed by Dr. Noel Chua, president of the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology; Dr. Manuel Agulto, executive director of the Eye Referral Center; Dr. Romeo Espiritu, president of the Vitreoretina Society; and Dr. Ildefonso Chan, head of the Vitreoretina Section of the Eye Referral Center. The event was made possible through the joint venture of Novartis Ophthalmics and Eye Referral Center.

The case of the blank bullets

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.

"VIC, you're shooting blanks!" The doctor's words reverberated in Vic's ears like thunderclap. It hit him so hard the best reply he could give his doctor was an unbelieving blank stare. How could it happen to him? Sure, he has heard of men with this problem but a kind of man like Vic can never have such a problem. No way, Vic thought as he shook his head.

Vic, at 37, was an accomplished lawyer. Together with his college batchmates, he founded a law firm 6 years ago and in a relatively short span of time, the firm boasted of an impressive list of clients. They also became one of the favored law firms of multinationals.

Succeeding at everything seemed to be second nature to Vic. Back in law school, he was a consistent dean's lister, a champion debater and a bemedalled varsity swimmer. These, plus his movie-star looks earned him the title of "crush ng bayan." Notwithstanding his snobbish demeanor.

MEDICAL FILES

He played the field for a while, but at the age of 34, he finally decided to settle down. And for a very good reason. His wife was a perfect personification of beauty, brains, personality and character. The match was perfect and the marriage was great.

Except that after 3 years, they remained childless. That was when they decided to consult a fertility specialist.

The kind doctor understood Vic's feelings. "You're in good company, Vic," he assured him, "infertility affects one out of every five couples. The major causes are problems with the sperm, ovulation, Fallopian tubes and the cervix. Hormonal and other unidentified factors are also implicated. Management of infertility requires thorough evaluation of both partners just like what we did in your case...."

"And I have the problem?" Vic interrupted the doctor.

"To be fertile," the doctor tried to explain tactfully, "a man must be able to produce an adequate quantity of sperm and deliver it sufficiently to the woman's vagina. Factors interfering with this process can cause infertility. High fever or exposure to excessive heat can greatly reduce sperm count, impair its movement and increase the number of abnormal cells in the semen. Optimal sperm production is attained at a temperature lower than body temperature, somewhere in the vicinity of 93.2 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the usual temperature in the testes where the sperms are formed. This relatively lower temperature can be attained since the testes are in the scrotum, which is outside the body cavity."

The doctor went on to explain that the most common abnormality in infertile men is varicocele, which is a tortuous mass of snakelike veins in the scrotum, similar to varicose veins. It feels like a bag of worms and it prevents adequate drainage of blood from the testes, thus increasing the temperature and impairing sperm formation.

Occasionally, the semen can "swim" in the wrong direction and travel backward into the bladder instead of going forward down the penile urethra. This is called retrograde ejaculation and may be a problem for men with diabetes. It may also be experienced following prostate or pelvic surgery.

Repeat semen analysis is usually done in men with abnormal sperm count since it may normally vary, or may just be caused by a very recent ejaculation. If it is consistently abnormal, the doctor now tries to identify the cause such as mumps orchitis, a sudden illness or prolonged fever in the previous 3 months, exposure to toxins, use of prohibited drugs, anabolic steroids or excessive alcohol intake.

The doctor paused for a while, then continued, "In your case, Vic, you have azospermia, which is a complete absence of sperm. Your sperm factory has shut down and you're literally shooting blank bullets. It usually results from a primary disorder within the testes or from blocked, or missing vasa deferentia which are the tubes transporting the sperms from the testes to the outside through the urinary canal in the penis called the urethra. Since your semen contains fructose, a sugar produced by the seminal vesicles in the testes, that means that the vasa deferentia are not blocked; and your problem is a defect in your testes."

"What can we do then, doc?" Vic asked.

"We have three options," the doctor answered. "We can try some pills like clomiphene, which is the same drug used to induce ovulation in women. Based on some studies, it can also increase sperm counts in men. But in your case, the chances are nil, probably almost zero that you would respond. The second option is artificial insemination in your wife's womb. But since you have no sperm at all, we'll have to get it from a donor. I don't know if that is acceptable to both of you..."

"And the third option?" Vic's wife asked.

"The third option is to adopt a child whom you can raise as your own," replied the doctor.

Vic and his wife chose the third option. Years later, as their adopted son's name was called during his kindergarten graduation ceremonies to receive the most outstanding graduate award, Vic beamed with pride and without reservation, proudly exclaimed, "He is my son, a true chip of the old block!"

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. In addition to the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Some data have been changed to cover the patient's identity. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila; or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

The sweet scent of well-being

YOU have often heard the trite advice, a whiff of fresh air can do wonders for your headache or some such common but usually harmless condition. Indeed, scents stimulate a part of the brain that can influence certain body functions such as blood pressure and even respiration, which may partly explain how aromatherapy works.

In a recent lecture at the Julius Maggi Kitchen at the Nestlé Center, Slimmers' World SM City sales manager Emily Cruz spoke on the benefits of aromatherapy treatment and the effects of the different scents on certain maladies.

"Aromatherapy combines the relaxing and nurturing power of touch with another powerful sense—smell," Cruz said.

Aromatherapy is an ancient art of healing and soothing through the use and diffusion of essential oils. It is an alternative form of providing natural relief from tension.

There are different types of oil extracts, these extracts have particular qualities that are used to treat specific ills of the body. These are oils extracted from various plant parts such as petals, fruits, twigs, leaves and seeds.

The diffusion of the scent may be accomplished in one of two ways: through a small burner or via a body massage. These oil extracts should never be ingested.

Spas and other fitness centers usually provide a full aromatherapy treatment complete with massage and health advice, but you can still opt for a quick-relief remedy by doing it yourself.

Cruz said there are three main areas of the body that one should concentrate on are the chest, the back and the arms. One can do this with a partner for optimum treatment.

Filipino math and science teachers in demand in US

WANTED urgently are Math and Science teachers to fill a whopping multimillion vacancy in American schools. While it was information technology managers and nurses before, this time the country is being sourced for teaching professionals.

The United States faces a rising shortage of up to 2-million teachers over the next five years. It has found that importing education professionals is one alternative for the country's 53-million school age population. While other countries including Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, Ireland and England have also been targets for teacher recruitment, the Philippines has emerged at the top for qualified and particularly skillful teachers.

Omni Consortium/Multicultural Professionals Limited Liability Co., a Texas-based recruitment agency for nursing and teaching professionals, successfully brought 62 teachers for full employment in 1999 by just one school district. Impressed by the turnout, three school districts from Texas and California hired 84 more Filipino teachers. They began their US teaching careers in the September 2000 school year.

Hardly a dent with Texas' and California's combined need of about 440,000 teachers, admits Florita C. Tolentino, the company's Filipino-American CEO, but still a worthy contribution. "They like Filipino teachers because aside from being skilled and qualified, these are teachers who really care about their children. Our teachers are really concerned if the child is learning or not," she says.

Apart from the booming student population, the US teacher shortage has been brought by a number of factors. Enrolment in education courses has dropped over the years as more students prefer involvement in the IT industry. California, which has the third smallest percentage of fully certified teachers in the United States, has even resorted to ad campaigns geared at bringing teenagers to consider a teaching career. Many qualified educators are also retiring from their noble profession.

According to Education Week, one of the top US publications of the field, teacher shortages are not unheard of in the history of American education. But the other major challenge now is that schools are faced with the most racially and ethnically diverse student population in its history. California, Texas, New York and Florida are projected to continue handling the most diverse student population. Small wonder then that Bilingual Education and English/English as a Second Language ranks among the most in demand specialties, aside from Math, Science, Reading, Special Education and Elementary Education.

Tolentino, who began as a nurse before becoming an entrepreneur, recalls lobbying against a law that prohibited foreigners from teaching US citizens. Her hard work has paid off both her adopted land and fellow Filipinos, she says. "I would rather that we have Filipinos working as respected professional educators abroad than gain reputations in dubious and even illegal occupations," she says.

This time, Tolentino's company is not only bringing in education officials, but a state qualifying exam as well. Together with JS Contractor Inc., the Philippines' first ISO 9002-certified overseas placement company, MPLLC will host the Functional Academic Skills Test (FAST) for qualified applicants on April 8 at the Philippine International Convention Center. The exam will be administered by US representatives.

Teachers who pass the exams and interviews with school officials will start teaching in Texas schools for the term starting 2002. Starting salaries are at $35,000 per year and teachers will not pay income taxes on the first two years of their stay.

Compensation increases considerably based on teaching experience. One Texas school district has credited Filipino teachers with 28 to 35 years experience and brought salaries up to as much as $53,000 a year. Age does not matter as much as experience does in this field, Tolentino says. She cites that Texas and California can be particularly generous with teachers, dangling higher salaries, apartment rent discounts, house cleaning services and even reduced rates on car repair services. Some districts have even offered day care services and laptop computers, all in hope of drawing bright teachers to develop bright students.

Application forms for FAST are available at the following JS Contractor Inc. offices: on Magallanes Street in Intramuros, Manila; at the Lioanag Building on Perez Boulevard in Dagupan City and at the Goodyear Servitek Building on Jakosalem Street in Cebu.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Clogged arteries top cause of death, disability in RP

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

ARE there "potholes," "traffic obstructions" and "humps" in your arteries?

It sounds more like a worn-out asphalt road. But when you think about it, potholes, cracks and clogged lanes can happen in a weakening blood vessel as much as in a busy street.

Philippine Heart Center's Dr. Ramon F. Abarquez Jr., president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension, likened arteriosclerosis—hardening of the arteries—to a weak asphalt road. High blood pressure does to the arteries what heavy trucks do to inadequately constructed roads. Potholes are likened to the effects of lipids. Blocking the blood supply to the heart muscle is likened to a traffic jam.

Leading cause of death

Arteriosclerosis is the Philippines' leading cause of death and disability. It accounted for more than 150,000 deaths from cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases in 2000.

Filipino experts said Filipinos can help put a stop to arteriosclerosis and its complications by treating risk factors that could worsen or trigger the condition. These are hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia, smoking, obesity and lack of physical activity.

Arteriosclerosis delays the blood supply to critical organs, especially to the heart and brain.

Dr. Abarquez said that if it blocks the blood supply to the heart muscle a person develops a heart attack. If it blocks the blood supply to the brain, a person develops a stroke. If it blocks the blood supply to the kidney, end-stage renal disease can result. A person would have to undergo hemodialysis of kidney transplant.

"If you block the circulation to the leg it results to gangrene, a wound will not heal. The only way to save a patient, because of an infected gangrene, is to cut the limb or amputate. And this is common among diabetics," he said.

Runs in the family

Parents who have high blood pressure or a heart attack have children who are most likely at greater risk of arteriosclerosis.

"We suggest that the other members of the family should be brought also for examination because they are already at risk rather than wait for the condition to occur," Abarquez stressed.

One can slow the progress of the disease, but one cannot reverse the damage that has been done. Once the heart or the brain is damaged, it becomes permanent, Abarquez said.

"It is very important not to wait for the disease to develop."

The multiplier risk compounds the problem. Abarquez stressed that if a person is hypertensive, he or she has four times greater risk of heart attack and stroke and 10 times for heart failure.

"If you go beyond the age of 60, it goes up about 20 times. If you add to that cigarette smoking, or diabetes, it becomes 30 times. If you add to that enlargement of the heart, the risk is already 40 times," he said.

Improving your odds against breast cancer

FROM teenagers to grandmothers, all women are at risk of developing breast cancer, whether or not the disease runs in their family. Breast cancer now ranks as the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Filipino women, and is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide.

Although there is no proven way to prevent the occurrence of this disease, a woman can do many things that can lower the risk of having breast cancer and are good for her overall health.

Proper diet is always one of the best options, disease or no disease. As a rule, one should eat less salt and sugar, and more fiber. Lots of fruits, vegetables, grains and soy foods like tofu are always good given thumbs up.

Smoking is a big no-no, and alcohol intake should be moderate. Avoid hard liquor. A glass of wine over dinner wins the approval of health experts anytime.

One should also stay away from cancer-causing substances. Don't use chemical weed or bug-killers in the house or garden. Use nontoxic cleaning products like baking soda, vinegar and borax. Use glass or ceramic containers instead of plastic, especially in the microwave.

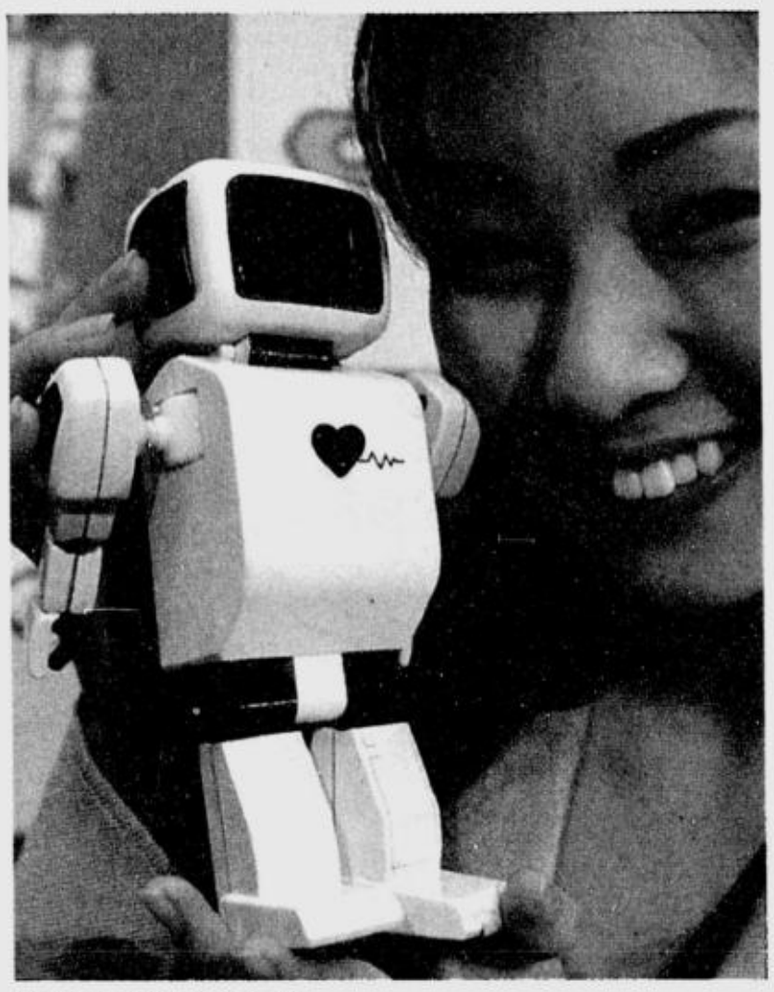
Exercise has also been proven to reduce the risk of breast cancer. Any amount, such as 10 minutes daily, should be built into a regular, rigorous routine in a woman's life—permanently.

While she is at it, she should also supplement exercise with a regular monthly breast self-examination (BSE). The Department of Health has long been endorsing this habit as the most effective method of detecting and protecting women from the disease.

Since early detection offers the best cure for breast cancer, BSE aims to help women familiarize themselves with the size, shape and feel of their breast, so they can readily identify even the smallest challenges and take immediate medical action.

BSE should be performed at least 10 minutes every month. Younger, premenopausal women should perform the exam during the week immediately after her monthly period. Postmenopausal and post-hysterectomy women should perform it on the first calendar day of each month.

Since knowledge is power, all women from the time of puberty onward would be wise to stay informed about medical advancements, become an advocate for their own good health and contribute their time and money to help eradicate breast cancer. In this way, they will be able to improve their odds even better, and unite in having healthier lives.



HUMANOID ROBOT REUTER

SEGA Corp. promotion girl Misaki Sato shows off one of five humaoind robots, C-BOT, at an unveiling in Tokyo Feb. 28. The C-BOT can communicate emotions via a digital display face on its head and communiicate via a cell phone. The new robot goes on sale in May at 3,980 yen ($34). The C-BOT series of robots are equipped with emotion circuits, and are capable of expressing joy, love.

Ex-DOST official to file cases vs Unidea

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

FORMER Science and Technology Assistant Secretary Imelda Rodriguez said she is set to file administrative and criminal charges against the United DOST Employees Association (Unidea) for false and defamatory statements in a Feb. 10 INQUIRER article.

Rodriguez said in a statement that she is filing cases for "maliciously" mentioning her in a news item in the INQUIRER where the Unidea described her as having retired from DOST with a pending case at the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption (PCAGC).

As of press time, Rodriguez said her lawyer—Basil Alo—is still reviewing which appropriate cases are to be filed.

Accusations

Unidea, in a Feb. 10 INQUIRER report, disclosed that former Science and Technology Secretary Filemon Uriarte had allowed Rodriguez to retire despite the unresolved cases filed against her before the PCAGC.

Unidea disclosed that Rodriguez allegedly wangled the donation of three motor vehicles in exchange for the free rentals by the Land Bank of the Philippines of a parcel of land belonging to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and collecting a yearly honorarium of P36,000 as a project consultant of a World Bank-funded Engineering and Science Education project. Unidea said that Rodriguez was not authorized to enter into a consultancy contract or collect honorarium.

Documents

Rodriguez submitted documents to the INQUIRER showing that the donated vehicles were registered in DOST's name with the Land Transportation Office and taken up in the books of accounts of DOST under Journal Voucher 6155864 dated Dec. 31, 1997. A deed of donation issued by the DOST and LandBank in 1997 showed LandBank donated three brand-new vehicles: A Mitsubishi L300 van, a Honda Civic Sedan and a Honda Accord.

She added that the Department of Budget and Management was duly informed of the donated vehicles through a letter sent to them dated June 30, 1997. The motor vehicles, she added, were received by the DOST and entered in the book of accounts of the property section and accounting division in accordance with the standard accounting and auditing practice. The three vehicles, she said, are being utilized by all executive committee officials of the DOST.

Rodriguez also disclosed that the payments of P36,000 each for 1996 and 1997 represent reimbursements of miscellaneous expenses to her as a project consultant. She stressed that this is authorized under National Compensation Circular 75 on March 1, 1995. She added that the circular on reimbursement of expenses authorized assistant secretaries as project personnel to claim P3,000 monthly reimbursement of expenses, "not honorarium as alleged."

Denial

Rodriguez also said that she did not get her retirement pay in just three days. The application for retirement and the letter to the Government Service Insurance System were signed by former secretary Uriarte on June 23, 2000 and June 30, 2000, respectively, "while the date of my retirement was July 31, 2000," Rodriguez said.

The request to DBM for the release of a special allotment release order and the corresponding notice of cash allocation was dated June 27, 2000; the DBM advice of NCA issued was dated Aug. 2, 2000.

"Based on these documents, the period covered in processing my claims took more than one month, contrary to the malicious claim of only three days," Rodriguez added.

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Solutions to the Xmas challenge

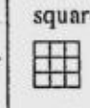
BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

THE CHRISTMAS Challenge last December 25 generated responses from 76 readers. The top scorers (and those who will receive an autographed copy of my latest book, "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists") are listed below, together with the best detailed solutions. Recall that the Pigeonhole Principle states that for any two positive integers k and n, if at least kn + 1 objects are distributed among n boxes, then one of the boxes must contain at least k + 1 objects.

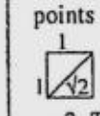
1. Show that, for any set of 10 points, chosen within a square whose sides are of length 3 units, there are two points in the set whose distance apart is at most $\sqrt{2}$.

Here is reader RAM's solution:

We can draw two vertical and two horizontal lines to cut up the 3 x 3 square into nine 1 x 1 squares as shown.



Now each of the 1 x 1 squares can contain 1 point, for a total of 9 points. Because of the Pigeonhole Principle, an additional point (the tenth) must necessarily share one of the occupied small squares. We only have to consider this shared square (which is a unit square as shown). The farthest two points on this square are any of the two pairs of opposite corners whose distances are the length of the diagonal of the square. We can then use the Pythagorean Theorem to come up with the diagonal length: $\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}$ units. Thus, 2 of the 10 points are at most $\sqrt{2}$ units apart.



2. The five tires of a car (four road tires and a spare) were each used equally on a car that had traveled 20,000 km. For how many kilometers had each of the tires been used?

Here is reader Gilbert Parrocha's solution:

The total number of kilometers traveled by the four tires was 20,000 (4) = 80,000 km. There were five tires that were used equally, thus the total number of kilometers we have above must be divided by 5. Each of the tires had been used for 80,000 / 5 = 16,000 kilometers.

3. How many positive integers less than 500 are not divisible by 2 or 3?

Here is reader Allan Niñal's solution:

First, we get the number of integers which is divisible by 2 or 3. Let A be the number of positive integers less than 500 which are divisible by 2. Let B be the number of positive integers less than 500 which are divisible by 3. We can use a formula for arithmetic series, which is $a_n = a_1 + (n - 1) d$, where a_n is the nth term, a_1 is the first number, n is the number of terms, and d is the common difference between terms.

The last number less than 500 which is divisible by 2 is 498, the first number divisible by 2 is 2 itself. We have: 498 = 2 + (A - 1) 2, so A is 249. Similarly, 498 = 3 + (B - 1) 3, so B is 166.

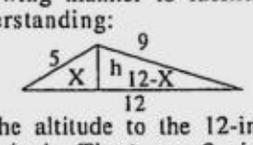
But there are numbers which are divisible by 2 and 3, and we have to subtract them from the sum of A and B. Those numbers divisible by both 2 and 3 are the numbers which are divisible by 6 Let C be the number of positive integers less than 500 which are divisible by 6. Using the arithmetic series formula, we have: 498 = 6 + (c - 1) 6, so C is 83.

Thus, we have: A + B - C = 249 + 166 - 83 = 332, which is the number of positive integers less than 500 which are divisible by 2 or 3 (but not both). Finally, to get the number of positive integers which are not divisible by 2 or 3, note that the last positive integer less than 500 is 499, so 499 - 332 = 167. There are 167 numbers less than 500 which are not divisible by 2 or 3.

4. If the sides of a triangle are 5 inches, 9 inches and 12 inches, find the altitude to the 12-inch side.

Here is reader Arnel Amparo's solution:

The triangle is drawn in the following manner to facilitate understanding:



The altitude to the 12-inch side is h. There are 2 right triangles divided by the altitude h. By the Pythagorean Theorem, for the triangle at the left: $x^2 + h^2 = 5^2$. For the triangle at the right, $(12 - x)^2 + h^2 = 9^2$. We equate these two equations to solve for x, and basic algebra leads to an answer of x = 11/3 inches. Substituting the value of x to get h, we finally have h = $2\sqrt{26} / 3$ inches.

5. Suppose that 17 playing cards are chosen at random from a standard deck of 52 cards. Show that these cards must contain a "flush" (five cards all of the same suit).

Here is reader RAM's solution:

There are four suits in a deck of playing cards. According to the Pigeonhole Principle, n = 4, and k = 4, since 4k + 1 = 17. Also, one of the n = 4 suits must contain at least k + 1 = 4 + 1 = 5 cards, which make a flush.

Or we can proceed as follows: Let us see how we can avoid having a flush from 17 cards. The suits of the first 16 cards must be distributed such that none of the 4 suits has five cards. Thus, 16 cards will result in each of the 4 suits having 4 cards. Now the 17th card has to match one of the suits, raising the number of cards to five in that suit (a flush). This is an unavoidable event.

Congratulations to the following readers! Perfect score is 5 points.

1. RAM, 5 Ma. Victoria, Project 6, Quezon City (5 points)
2. Gilbert Parrocha, University of the Philippines, Mathematics Department, Diliman, Quezon City (5 points)
3. Voltaire N. Lorenzo, 18 Gabut St., San Vicente, Alcala, Pangasinan 2425 (4 1/2 points)
4. Arnel J. Amparo, QA/QC Department, Victorias Milling Company Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental/P.O. Box 171 Bacolod City 6100, Negros Occidental (4 points)
5. Emmanuel M. Jarilla, 520 Magsaysay St., Bibincahan, Sorsogon, Sorsogon, 4700 (4 points)
6. Justo T. Del Puerto, 16 San Francisco St., Calabanga, Camarines Sur 4405 (3 1/2 points)
7. Allan A. Ninal, University of the Philippines, High School Program, Lahug, Cebu City (2 1/2 points)

WHO, experts redefine obesity among Asians

ASK anyone what's his perception of an obese person, and chances are he'd describe someone who's big, stocky and probably weighs over 200 pounds.

Latest research recognized by no less than the World Health Organization, however, has redefined the look of obesity among Asians—a person who is at least 10 pounds overweight is already considered bordering obesity.

Obesity has become more prevalent in Asia in the past decade brought about by economic gains in most countries and the increasing influence of Western lifestyle and diet. Aggravating the situation is the sedentary lifestyle among Asian urban dwellers.

Obesity is commonly measured by body mass index (BMI), calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by the square of his or height in meters (kg/m). People with a BMI of over 30 are considered obese. By this system, Asians are still way behind compared to the high number of overweight Westerners, where 15 to 30 percent of the population are considered obese.

But Asians have smaller frames compared to Caucasians and thus, should not be judged on similar basis. Doctors warn that many available literature that is supposed to guide the health-conscious Asian may be inappropriate and misleading, as most data are based on the American or European perspective.

"While in some Asian populations the prevalence of obesity is lower than that in Europe, the health risks associated with obesity occur at a lower body mass index among Asians," wrote Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director in the Western Pacific Region, in "The Asia-Pacific Perspective: Redefining Obesity and its Treatment." The new book proposes a new BMI cut-off-point of 25 for Asians.

Under the new 25 BMI cut-off, obesity levels for Asian adults are as follows: 20 percent of Malaysians would be considered obese, 16 percent of Thais, 22 percent of Japanese, 20.5 percent of South Koreans, and 16 percent of Filipinos. This underscores the fact that Asians are now more prone to develop obesity-related illnesses like Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, gallstones and certain cancers, even at lower BMI.

"You don't need to weigh too much or even look fat to be considered at risk," explains Alex Depnag of Knoll Pharmaceuticals (Philippines). "You could be at risk of obesity-related illnesses without even knowing it."

There is a lot to be done to address the increasing problems of obesity in Asia. This explains why pharmaceutical companies, like Knoll Pharma Inc., are supportive of projects that tackle the issue. Knoll has been working with obesity experts worldwide to help increase the level of awareness on the health risks associated with being overweight and obesity. The company will soon launch "The Green STORM" project—an information campaign on weight loss and prevention of weight regain—which coincides with the entry of its new antiobesity pill.

SaturdaySPECIAL

'Shrek' filmmakers come up with new software to create more believable effects

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

I'VE just come back from a working visit to the PDI-DreamWorks studios in Palo Alto, California to get the lowdown on the leading movie company's latest animated feature, "Shrek."

Promising movie

The studio is making a big to-do about this particular production because its producers feel that they've got a specially promising and important movie in "Shrek." Why? Because it "pushes the envelope" in terms of furthering animation skills in terms of realism, and the movie has been getting very positive audience reactions during its preview screenings.

I joined entertainment journalists from France, Japan, South America and Australia in an all-day immersion visit to PDI-DreamWorks' animation facilities, plus interviews with all of the department heads involved in the production, all the way up to DreamWorks' top man for animated features, Jeffrey Katzenberg.

Plotline

But first, let's get our bearings and get some leads on the film's plotline:

Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) is an ogre who lives in a remote swamp. His precious solitude is shattered by an invasion of annoying fairytale characters. There are blind mice in his food, a big, bad wolf in his bed, three little homeless pigs, etc. All of them have been banished from their home kingdom by the evil Lord Farquaad (John Lithgow).

LEAD CHARACTERS: Shrek, Donkey and Princess Fiona.

Determined to get them out of his hair, Shrek cuts a deal with Farquaad and sets out to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz), so that she can become Farquaad's bride.

Mission

Accompanying him on his mission is a wisecracking Donkey (Eddie Murphy) who will do anything for Shrek—except shut up!

SHREK/P.C2

March Gig Guide

"Miss Congeniality", Advanced Screening — 06
(In cooperation with Warner Bros. Pictures and RX Monster Radio 93.1)
An action-comedy on an FBI agent (Sandra Bullock) who joined the Miss United States beauty pageant to foil a bomb threat. First 20 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 5 will get a pair of free tickets.
>> Shangri-La Cinema - 7:30 PM

GENTXT Night at Streetlife — 10
Party all night at Streetlife! First 250 GENTXTers to flash their cards get free entrance, food and drinks.**
>> Streetlife, Glorietta - 7:30 PM

"The Wedding Planner", Advanced Screening — 13
(In cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM)
A romantic comedy on love and destiny starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey. First 30 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 12 will get a pair of free tickets.
>> SM Megamall - 7:30 PM

Araw ng Dabaw Celebration — 16
GENTXT celebrates Araw ng Dabaw at The Venue! First 100 GENTXTers to go to the Globe Telecom Davao Menseng Business Center starting March 10 will get entrance stub with corresponding consumable food and drinks.**
>> The Venue, Davao - 9:00 PM

St. Patrick's Day at Bennigan's — 17
GENTXT celebrates St. Patrick's Day! First 50 GENTXTers to dine at Bennigan's before the 17th will get an invitation for a free dinner buffet.
>> Bennigan's, Glorietta - 9:00 to 11:00 PM

Crossover Live — 22
Bump-and-grind to the live music of Channels band! First 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 21 will get a pair of free tickets.
>> Café Overdrive, Pasong Tamo Extension - 8:00 PM

South Border Live — 28
Enjoy the exciting beat of South Border at 8th Day! First 25 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 27 will get a pair of free entrance tickets.
>> 8th Day, St. Francis Square - 8:00 PM

Eyestorm 2 — WHOLE MONTH
GENTXTers enjoy 30% discount on ck Calvin Klein eyewear and 40% discount on Nautica eyewear. Also, get a free ck Calvin Klein cellphone holder upon purchase of any of these 2 eyewear brands. Available exclusively at the following The Optical Shops: SM Megamall, SM City, SM Centerpoint, SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, SM Fairview, SM Cebu, Quad 1 Makati, Quad 3 Makati, Filinvest Festival Mall, Robinson's Place Ermita, and Ayala Center Cebu.

H20, Cebu — WHOLE MONTH
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*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecille, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MARCH 3 – 9

(The inquirer is not responsible for last minute changes in programming.)

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren / "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:30 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	4:00 MBA 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *Awakening* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Special 8:00 El Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 12:00 Wild On 1:00 Search Party
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sulfada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Timecop 7:00 Dawson's Creek 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 Talk Soup 6:30 CBS Evening News 7:00 60 Minutes (CBS) 8:00 El Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Talk Soup
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Allyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Tilgun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Time of Your Life 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 Team Knight Rider 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:30 Grapevine 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Tilgun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 GMA Drama Studio Presents 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Marvin's Room* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Juslie 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Tilgun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Citiline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show

Tables by Nena V. Tantoco

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE BOOK "Tables by Tiffany," details the many fabulous table settings the famous company can do. No doubt, it is a best-seller.

Numerous requests

But there us another book on table settings, yet to be written but bound to be a popular item when it hits the bookstands. That is, when Marina Vargas or Nena Tantoco to her intimates, is able to set aside the numerous requests for her to do table settings for this and that wedding, birthday, anniversary or victory celebration, etc.

Did she attend a New York school for visual merchandising? "No," she laughs gently, "When the moment comes to create, it's as if the magic is released. My hands move as if on their own accord, they are inspired to create beauty. Everything is an impromptu performance!"

She executes a rustic picnic setting complete with a low table as in the Filipino native *dulang*, or like the Japanese or Middle Eastern way of dining. She converts a *buri* window blind into a table *mantel* and old pillow covers as table mats. Instead of flowers, she uses vegetables as table accents. Colorful and edible!

Colors

"And match the colors of your vegetables with the colors of your tableware and flatware, you can't go wrong with that," she advises. "Look, I am even using big kitchen utensils as service spoons. Just be spontaneous and mix and match everything for a natural look."

Her next work of art is a table enlivened by a piece of fine handwoven material dyed in bright yellow-orange tied around the sheltering umbrella's handle. But the curiosity pieces are the plastic flatware starter set that costs P195.00 and the glasses and plates that do not look cheap or throw-away at all. In fact, the table looks chic and quite expensive, the kind one sees in Good Housekeeping, Redbook or Gourmet magazines.

The third table takes off from US designer Ralph Lauren. It is country, but done with style. "I don't want to use flowers," Nena says.

Instead, she makes little posies out of pea sprouts, rosemary, tarragon, basil and other leafy herbs, and bunches them in little drinking glasses.

Maybe it even works for outdoor parties as well because the scent can drive away the insects. As a final touch, she tosses in banana leaves woven into little balls, the kind rural boys and girls kick into the air. A birdhouse shares center stage, too. And the colors are the varying shades of soft, minty green.

After all, a real artist can work with any material, traditional or non-traditional. And Nena Tantoco, who has shared her gift and flair for design with Rustan's Flower Shop for 19 years, shows that her passion for art, craft and beauty has not ebbed at all. That's why she's still the merchandising consultant at Rustan's Commercial Corporation.

TANTOCO puts the finishing touches on one of her striking tabletop creations.

'Shrek' filmmakers . . .

(From page C1)

Rescuing the princess from a fire-breathing dragon may prove to be the least of their problems when the deep, dark secret she has been keeping is revealed.

Our first meeting was with Aron Warner, one of the movie's producers and head of PDI. He stressed the positive inputs of the company's "melting pot" of artists from all over the world, adding texture and range to the production with their varied cultural backgrounds.

He revealed that the film was based on a children's book by William Steig. The book had only 28 pages, so a lot of additions and elaborations were made on its basic story.

Test audiences

Warner said that the finished film has been getting extra-enthusiastic feedback from test audiences because they relate very well to its theme (the value of friendship) and exuberant, hip storytelling style.

Next, we got to meet the movie's young co-directors, Andrew Adamson and Victoria Jenson. Ms Jenson, who was lovely enough to be a star herself, said that the movie's appeal to her was the chance it gave her to "take familiar topics like beauty, love and friendship, and turn them on their ear with a fun and even anachronistic approach.

"We take the traditional conventions of the fairytale and transform them into something new and energetic. In our world, nobody is as he traditionally used to be!"

Zest

For his part, production designer James Hegedus strove to create images of a storybook world come to life, but with a more contemporary panache and zest. He did this through a creative orchestration of design, lighting and visual imagery, working hard to enable the movie to evolve "a unique life of its own."

An important consideration was *consistency*, with all of the movie's diverse production and animation elements coming together seamlessly and believably so that, to the viewers, Shrek's reality truly exists.

High standard

To achieve this high standard, however, the film's animators had to go beyond the computer animation software that was already available, because its end product was stilted and unreal.

They had to devise their own software to create more believable animated renditions of human hair, facial features and movement, natural environments, clothing and how it moved and reacted to light, fire and fluids. *(To be concluded)*

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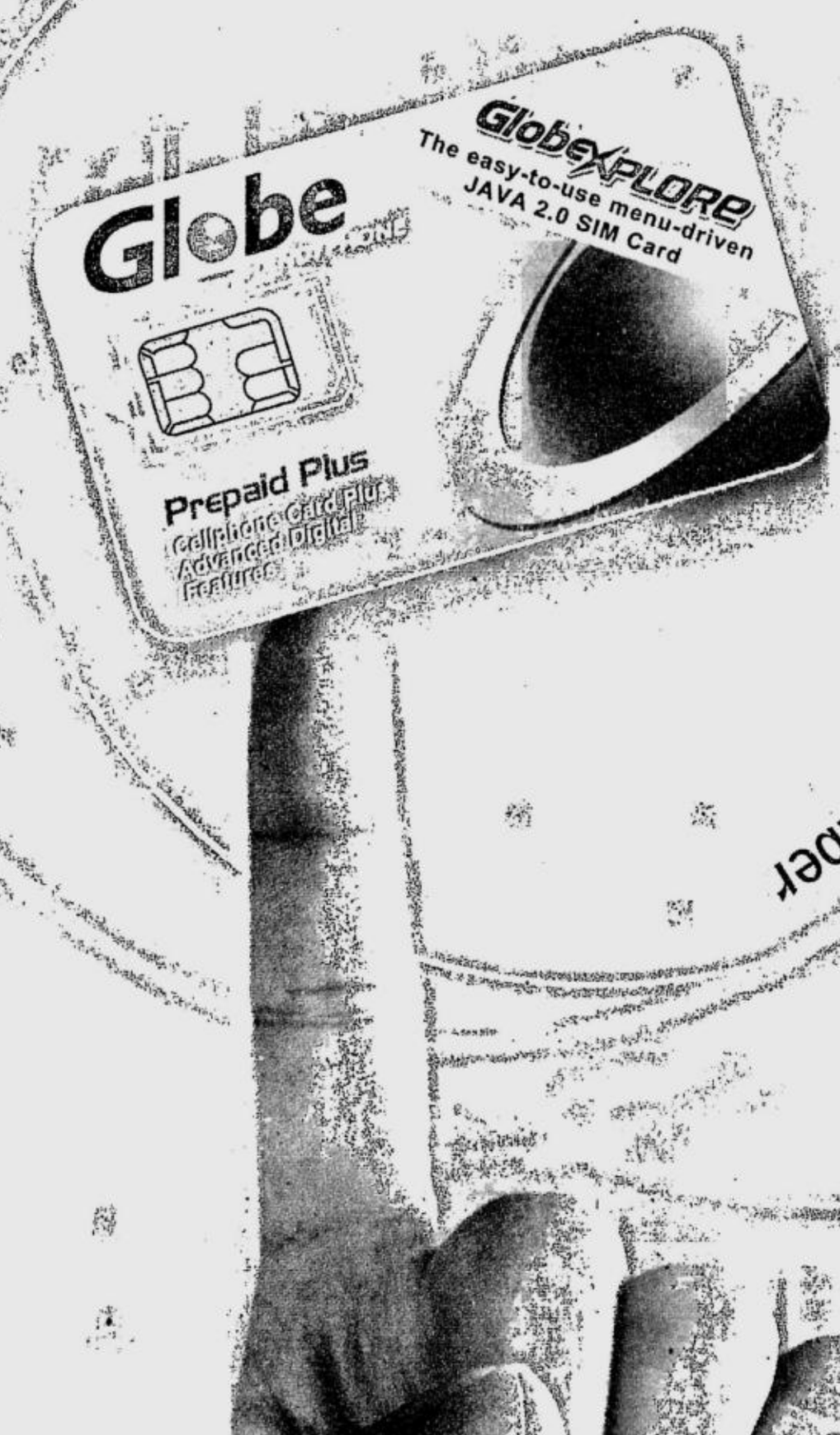

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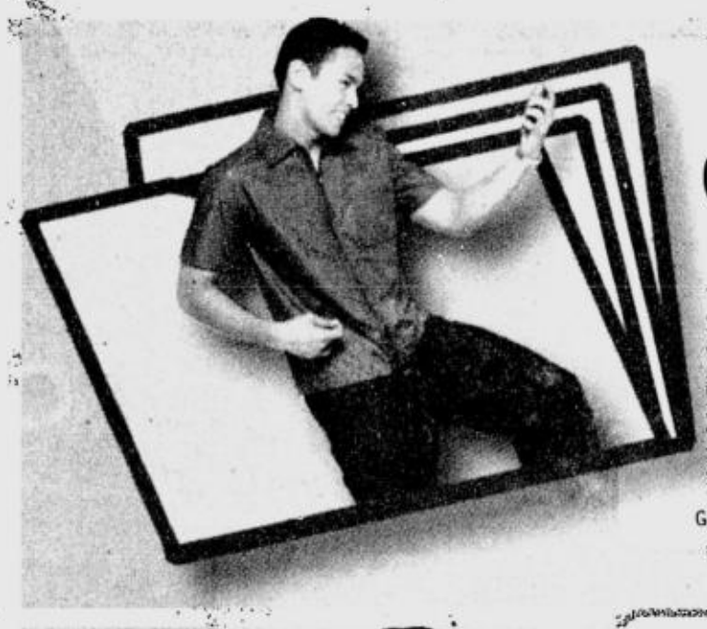

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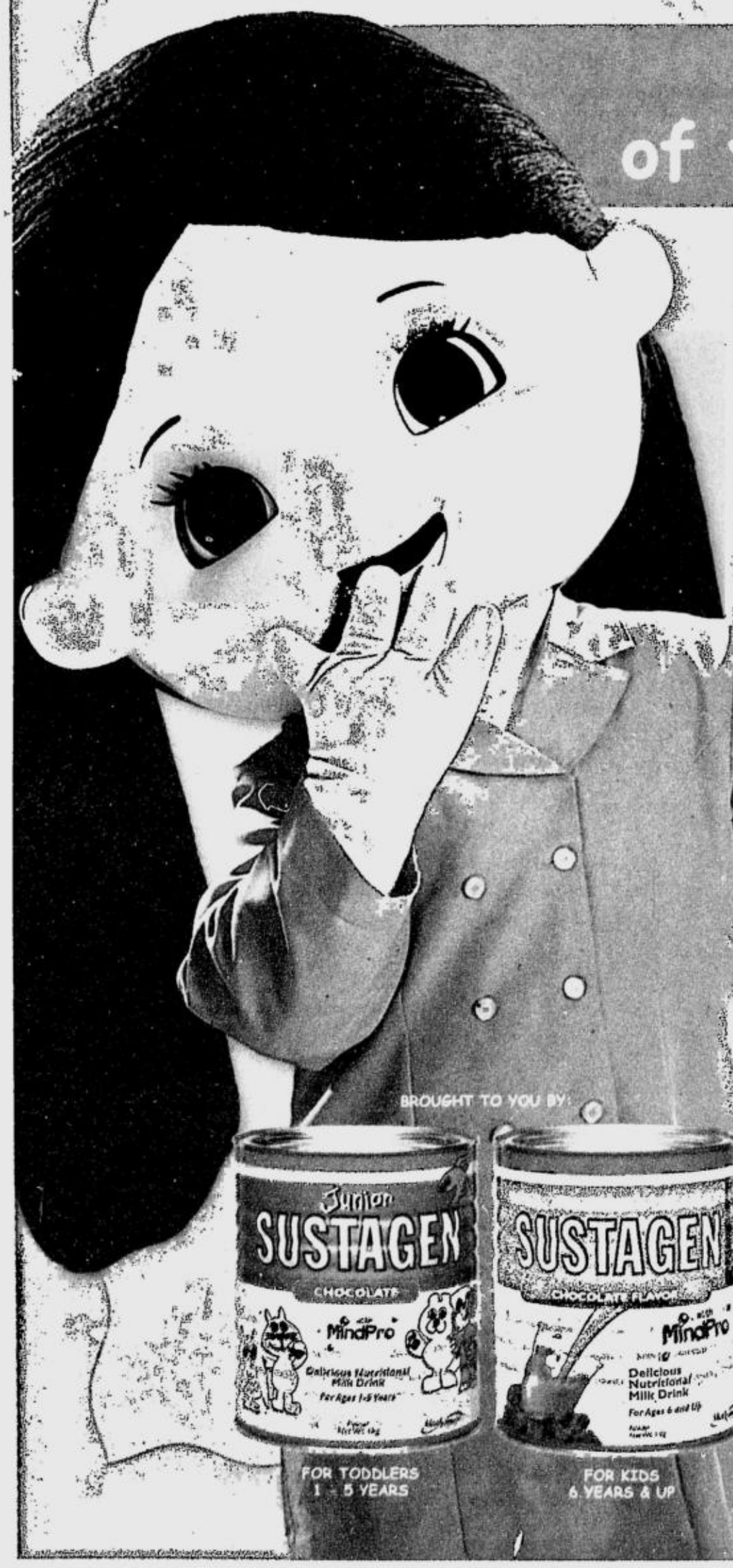

Schedule of TV Appearances

EAT BULAGA [Ch 7]
Date: March 3, Saturday
Time: 12:00nn - 2:30pm

STUDIO 23 [Ch 23]
Throughout the month of March

S-FILES [Ch 7]
Date: March 4, Sunday
Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

D'DAY [Ch 7]
Date: March 7, Wednesday
Time: 10:30am - 11:30am

KOKO KWIK KWAK [Ch 7]
Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27
Time: 9:00am - 9:30am

STAR TALK [Ch 7]
Date: March 10, Saturday
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm

BATANG BATIBOT [Ch 7]
Dates: March 10, 17, 24, 31
Time: 8:30am - 9:00am

SOP [Ch 7]
Date: March 11, Sunday
Time: 12:00nn - 2:30pm.

PENPEN de SARAPEN [Ch 9]
Dates: March 10, 17, 24, 31
Time: 10:30am - 11:30am

5 & UP [Ch 7]
Dates: March 11, 18, 25, April 1
Time: 9:30am - 10:00am

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Inculcating positive values through a family drama show on television

BY BIBSY M. CARBALLO

IF the people behind the TV series "Munting Paraiso"(Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Channel 2) appear to be overly proud of their achievements, it is a much-deserved bias. Director Ricky Davao proudly says that it is the only TV show on ABS-CBN that actively pursues the propagation of family values since its inception two years ago.

Role model

"The show's original intention was to depict a perfect Filipino family, one which has sound Filipino values—truly a role model for all families especially at this time when the moral fiber of our society has deteriorated," says head writer Shaira Mella Salvador. "And to present sensitive issues, but using a general-patronage approach," adds executive producer Ellen Rodriguez.

When the show started, Shaira remembers it had a tendency to be preachy, which they felt just wouldn't do, especially with the MTV generation. So they worked on toning it down without compromising the show's original goals. What has evolved is a show about a Filipino family with imperfections of their own, like all other families, which apparently is more acceptable to viewers.

Today, the Pamilya Dionisio composed of Ronaldo Valdez, Coney Reyes, Jericho Rosales, CJ Ramos, Sarah Christopher, Ann Villegas has become the family many others would want to emulate. Ricky says that future episodes may introduce other characters and perhaps other families but plans are still up in the air.

Content

Having started with the show as its original director, Ricky feels that he was given the assignment because the network executives perhaps felt that he could contribute not only to the program's artistic merits but also to its content, being a family man and father.

"Many of the stories are real," explains Ricky. Some are those he has experienced with his father, his children and his wife.

That the show is reaching its target audience of parents and children has been apparent from the many e-mails received, says Ellen.

A sampling: *"Naiingit ako sa inyo dahil ang ganda ng inyong pamilya"* writes Pinky Legaspi. From the Hombrebueno family: "My kids love this show." Rizalyn Cruz from the Middle East would like to order a tape.

J. McHerron from Guam adds his congratulations. Qain Baxter identifies with the episode on a retarded youth since his son is a special child.

The show still has to win an award, although it has gotten nominations from the Catholic Mass Media and Star Awards for Television. "We consider the people's appreciation of our simple show as our award and reward," says Ellen.

Shaira says that "Munting Paraiso" could be called a cross between the heavily dramatic "Maalaala Mo Kaya" and the light and breezy "Judy Ann Special" and "Flames." "Sa *umpisa, akala ko madaling magsulat para sa 'Munti,' pero sa totoo lang mahirap kunin yung tamang timpla,"* she shares.

Future episodes

During monthly brainstorming sessions, stories and plots are fleshed out for future episodes. The sessions are meticulous down to the minutest details. And although there are four writers under Shaira (Mari Lamasan, Maribel Ilag, Rhoda Sulit, and Arlene Tamayo) who get to write an episode a month, the show is such that it appears to be written by just one writer.

"This is because we are on only one wavelength," explains Shaira.

We chanced upon the group during a brainstorming session one weekend at the Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas. Apart from the director, EP, and writers already mentioned, the group included associate producer Lea Uligan, production assistants Leon Roldan and Jhanice Casallo, and production designer Dante Garcia. They were having the time of their lives under the stars beside the rushing lake waters.

They had packed their meals and tents and early Saturday had hied over to the venue which has been our weekly retreat from the world. In the past, the group used to hole up in a hotel, expenses charged to the network, but because of recent budgetary cutbacks, they have had to seek other venues, chipping in for food and drinks.

According to Shaira, "Our Taal session was easily one of our most productive sessions. We wrapped up after only a few hours. The breezy atmosphere and the picturesque lake really got our creative juices going. The open space allowed our minds to soar!"

VALDEZ. Plays the head of the Dionisio family.

Questions on 'Millionaire' show clarified

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

RECENTLY, we ran a letter from a reader questioning the way that the queries on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" quiz show were framed. Baby Gil, VP for Corporate Media of the Viva Entertainment Group, has hastened to provide this clarification (excerpts):

Questions

"Mr. Bryan Gutierrez inquired if the questions are selected one by one as the show progresses, or if all 15 questions are selected before the first one is asked.

"The show is a franchise from Celandor of London. This means that Viva Television has to abide by all the rules set by the mother company. There are several sets of 15 questions prepared for every show and one set is selected the moment a contestant takes the hot seat.

"Nobody in the studio knows what these questions are, and even host Christopher de Leon sees them for the first time on his monitor only at that very moment.

Instance

"That instance (cited by Gutierrez) wherein a contestant was asked what kind of doctor specializes in eye diseases right after he mentioned that he was going to use his winnings to finance the eye surgery of the family maid was pure coincidence. None of the questions can be altered to suit a particular contestant.

"This is one of the characteristics of the show that Celandor is very proud of. It is the first game show in the world that cannot be rigged by anybody.

"Not even the host has the capability to help a contestant with the answers because he does not know them himself. He only gets to see the correct answer after the contestant answers the crucial question, "Is that your final answer?" If he says 'Yes,' the answer comes out on De Leon's monitor.

Fair chance

"Everybody who joins the show gets a fair chance. It just so happens that areas of expertise vary and what may be easy for a five-year-old (*'Ilan ang daliri ni* Mickey Mouse?') may mean defeat for the holder of a Ph. D.

"Those interested in watching the show live and finding out how it works may get in touch with Viva TV at tel. no. 725-0186."

In addition, Baby includes the 15 questions that were correctly answered by the first contestant in the United Kingdom to win £1,000,000 on the hit quiz show. Judith Keppel became an instant millionaire last Nov. 20, 2000.

Why don't you see how many of the 15 questions *you* can answer correctly? No cheating, OK? (My mom got 12 of the 15 answers right—hooray!):

Prime ministers

Q: Starting with the earliest, put these British prime ministers in order: A. Anthony Eden B. Alec Douglas-Home C. Harold Macmillan D. Winston Churchill. (This was the Fastest Fingers question won by Keppel.)

1. For £100 Q: Complete the saying: "As sick as a ..."—A. Patridge B. Puffin C. Parrot D. Penguin.

2. £200. Q. Which legal document states a person's wishes regarding the disposal of their property after death? A. Would B. Shall C. Should D. Will.

3. £300. Q: Complete the title of the James Bond film: "The Man With the ..."—A. Golden Tooth B. Golden Gun C. Golden Eagle D. Golden Delicious.

Fruits

4. £500 Q: Which of these fruits shares its name with something superior or desirable? A. Apricot B. Grapefruit C. Plum D. Mango.

5. £1,000. Q: In which sport do two teams pull at opposite ends of a rope? A. Tug of War B. Basketball C. Ice Hockey D. Polo.

6. £2,000. Q: Where would a cowboy normally put his "chaps"? A. On his head B. On his arms C. On his legs D. On his hands.

7. £4,000. Q: Which of these zodiac signs is not represented by an animal that grows horns? A. Taurus B. Capricorn C. Aquarius D. Aries.

8. £8,000. Q: Shepas and Gurkhas are native to which country? A. Russia B. Ecuador C. Nepal D. Morocco.

9. £16,000. Q: Prime Minister Tony Blair was born in which country? A. England B. Northern Ireland C. Scotland D. Wales (Kate used her Ask-the-Audience option and answered correctly.)

Autobiography

10. £32,000. Q: Whose autobiography has the title "A Long Walk to Freedom"? A. Ranulph Fiennes B. Mother Teresa C. Nelson Mandela D. Mikhail Gorbachev.

11. £64,000. Q: Duffel coats are named after a town in which country? A. Belgium B. Holland C. Germany D. Austria. (Kate went 50-50 and was left with a A. belgium and B. Holland. She correctly guessed the right answer.)

12. £125,000. Q: Complete this stage instruction in Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale": "Exit, pursued by a ..."?—A. Tiger B. Clown C. Bear D. Dog. (Kate phoned her friend Jilly Greenwood who immediately knew the answer.)

Creature

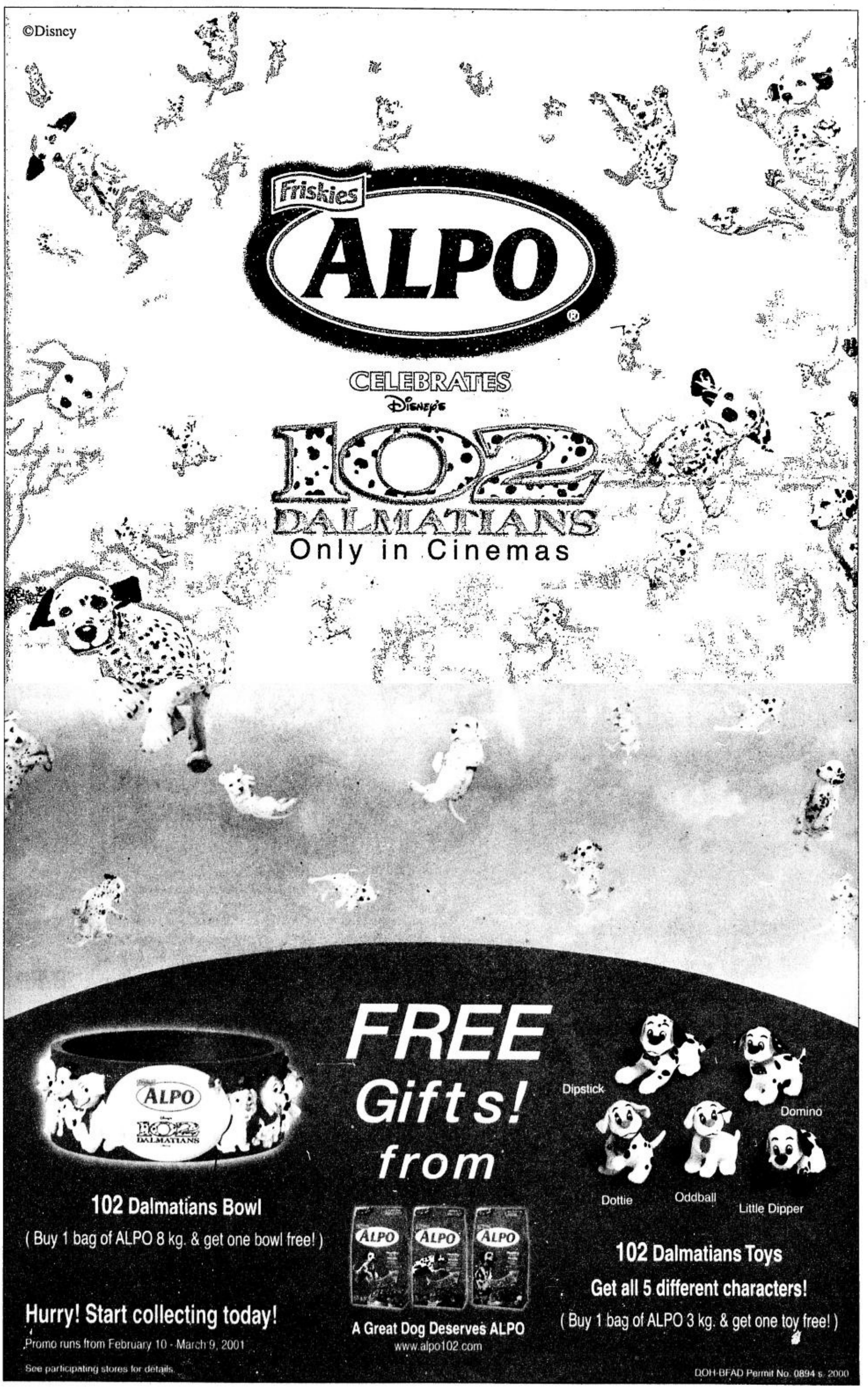
13 £250,000. Q: The young of which creature is known as a "squab"? A. Salmon B. Horse C. Pigeon D. Octopus.

14. £500,000. Q: Who is the patron saint of Spain? A. St. James B. St. John C. St. Benedict D. St. Peter.

15. £1,000,000. Q: Which King was married to Eleanor of Aquitaine? A. Henry I B. Henry II C. Richard I D. Henry V.

Answers:

Fast fingers question : DACB. 1. Parrot 2. Will 3. Golden Gun 4. Plum 5. Tug of War 6. On his legs 7. Aquarius 8. Nepal 9. Scotland 10. Nelson Mandela 11. Belgium 12. Bear 13. Pigeon 14. St. James 15. Henry II.



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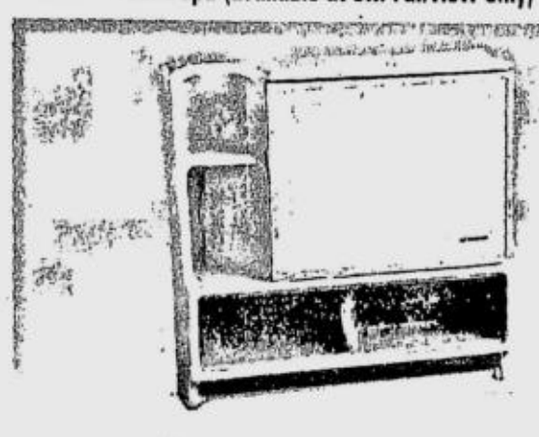

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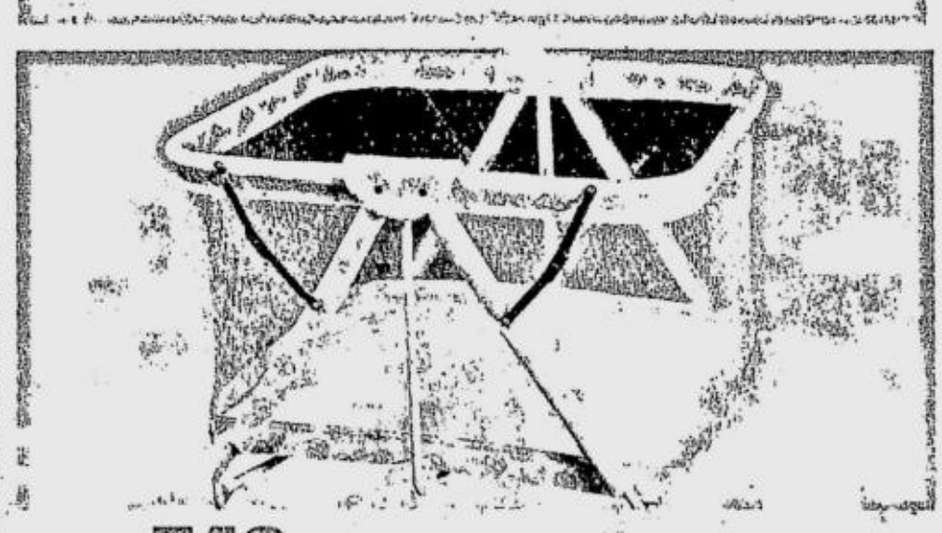

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SaturdaySPECIAL

Four of our best film directors go on the comeback trail

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

IN the late 1990s, local films were mediocre partly because a number of our best filmmakers had stopped making movies. Laurice Guillen, Mike de Leon, Eddie Garcia and Eddie Romero were only four of our most gifted directors who, for one reason or another, had temporarily bowed out of the filmmaking scene.

Exploitative

From time to time, we would write pieces urging them to return to filmmaking, because their superior abilities were sorely needed by an industry gone so overwhelmingly "commercial," unambitious, uncommitted and exploitative.

The first to heed the call to again gift the viewing public with his talent and vision was Mike de Leon, our most consistently outstanding filmmaker to date (he doesn't make many movies, but each of his productions is a superior work).

Mike's new film was "Bayaning Third World," his idiosyncratic and even radical take on the country's national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. It was a brilliantly challenging movie that unfortunately failed to find a sufficiently large audience, through no fault of the production.

GUILLEN. Her "Tanging Yaman" became both a critical and commercial hit.

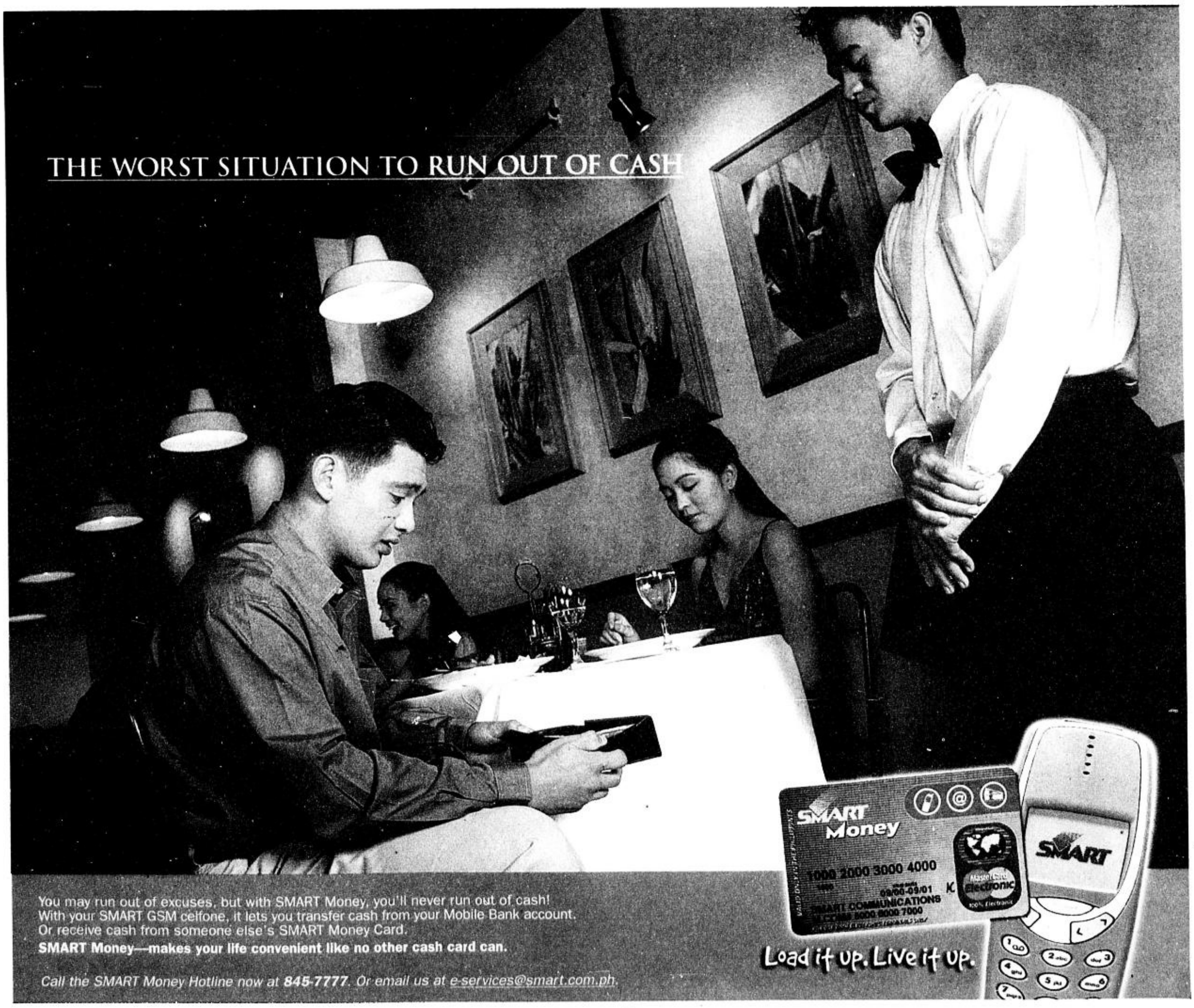
Heroism

There simply weren't enough people out there who were interested in being challenged to question their traditional concept of heroism, etc.

Our fervent hope is that this failure on the part of the audience hasn't plunged De Leon into another decade of filmic inactivity.

Give us another chance, Mike, we promise to do better. Despite all evidence to the contrary, the Filipino is still worth making movies for!—Hey, that's a thought: Why not make a film on Ninoy Aquino?

OUR BEST/ P. D2



Four of . . . (From page D1)

Religious mission

After Mike de Leon, it was Laurice Guillen's turn to return to filmmaking. She had stayed away from the film scene (she left at the zenith of her popularity) because she wanted to focus on her religious mission for the Marian Movement for Priests.

We joined Laurice in some of the tours she went on as part of her mission, and wrote about them. More to the point of this piece, we kept urging her to return to filmmaking, despite the apparent conflict between the movie world and her mission. We encouraged her to find a way to combine her love for filmmaking and her new spiritual involvement.

For years, nothing happened. Then, two years ago, Laurice asked us to read and comment on the first draft of a screenplay she had written about a "fractured" and fractuous Filipino family. Eventually, that script became "Tanging Yaman" and, as they say, the rest is history.

"Tanging Yaman" became both a critical and commercial hit, making Laurice's directorial comeback the most successful in years. Even better, she succeeded without having to compromise her spirituality. In fact, many viewers were grateful to her because she shared her deeper, more spiritually enlightened understanding about human nature with them.

Laurice's next film, "American Adobo," isn't as heavy on spirituality, but it's still a potentially substantial, involving and insightful production because it's about Filipinos living in the United States.

As for her third film in this new phase of her career, "Santa Santita," it again involves itself in questioning the function and value of spirituality in these often unspiritual times.

Third comebacking director out at bat is Eddie Garcia, who returns to filmmaking after over a decade with "Abakada... Ina." This is the story of an illiterate mother (Lorna Tolentino) who forces herself to learn how to read so that she can be of greater help to her children.

GARCIA. Returning to film direction with "Abakada... Ina."

Eddie says he didn't feel like going back to directing for years because he couldn't find the right material. When he read the script of "Abakada... Ina," he found the inspiration he had been looking for.

Since Eddie has directed gems like "Atsay," we are happy that he's back in fine directorial fettle—and mettle—again, and we hope that his new film lives up to its promise. More pertinently, we hope that all of you self-professed lovers of good movies out there make it a point to go out of your way to see the film!

All too often, our good filmmakers' best efforts are foiled by the lack of support of the film audience. Let us not fail Eddie Garcia now!

As for Eddie Romero, we are still hoping that a producer will get him to direct a good film project this year. And we are heartened by reports that his new historical TV mini-series, "Diwa," will start telecasting shortly.

Finally, we trust that Eddie Romero will be named National Artist for Film this year—a long-delayed honor that this movie veteran of 50 years of outstanding filmmaking so richly deserves!

Navasero Photo Workshop and Phototrek

WELL-known photographer Mandy Navasero will hold her annual workshop on basic photography every Saturday from April 7 to May 26.

The workshop will include lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations and darkroom work. Guest speakers will be discussing topics that will help enhance photographs.

Curator

On April 21 Prof. Eric Torres, curator of the Ateneo Art Gallery, poet and noted art critic will speak on Composition.

Weekly assignments are given to enable participants to familiarize themselves with the tools of their craft and to hone the skills they will be learning during the workshop. Participants will also be working in the darkroom to learn processing and printing of photographs.

Among the topics to be covered during the workshop are: What is Photography? Films, Camera Operations; How to print, Darkroom procedures; Basic principles of light, Lenses and Glossary; Exposure, How to Develop Your Eye; Photography as Composition; Tips for aspiring photographers with accompanying weekly assignments on abstract photography, line, light and shadows shapes and objects, photo documentation, and "people shoot" all with available lighting.

Equipment

Equipment and materials to be used during the workshop are l 35 camera format with interchangeable lens capability like 105 mm, 24 mm, or 28 mm; Kodak films Tri-X ASA 400, and Kodak photo processing chemicals like D-76 for films, Dektol paper and fixer. Two black-and white enlargers are available to participants for darkroom use.

Lectures will be held in the studio *cum* classroom. A teacher's aide will assist participants as they work in the darkroom. Navasero is available for consultation by appointment.

At the end of the workshop, the participants' enlarged prints will be presented in a photo exhibit *cum* graduation ceremony in a public area.

Old churches

The regular session will be suspended on Black Saturday; instead participants may join the Holy Week PHOTOTREK to Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos region, visiting and photographing century-old churches like the ones in Paoay, Sarat, St. Peter's Cathedral, our Lady of Piat, Tumauini and San Pablo Church in Isabela. Also Pagudpud's Patapat Bridge and Ivory Beach, the Cape Bojeador Lighthouse, and Vigan's Heritage Village.

A visit to the home of current "reluctant" hero, Chavit Singson has been arranged and he will be around to meet the phototrekkers, on April 12.

For more details, call Navasero Communications at 522-1901, 522-5185; and Telefax 322-5189.

Some great pairs you'll find in the mall will not carry pricetags.

Ariel and Jaya hit the Town with live and free concerts – Ariel on March 3 and Jaya on March 11. With their refreshing rhythms and melodies, they're a pair you just can't resist.

To avail of priority seating, collect receipts worth P500 and present them to the information booth located at the Activity Center from 10-4pm on the concert date itself. The first 100 Ayala Discount Plus cardholders automatically get 1 ticket free. Only 500 seats available. First come, first served.

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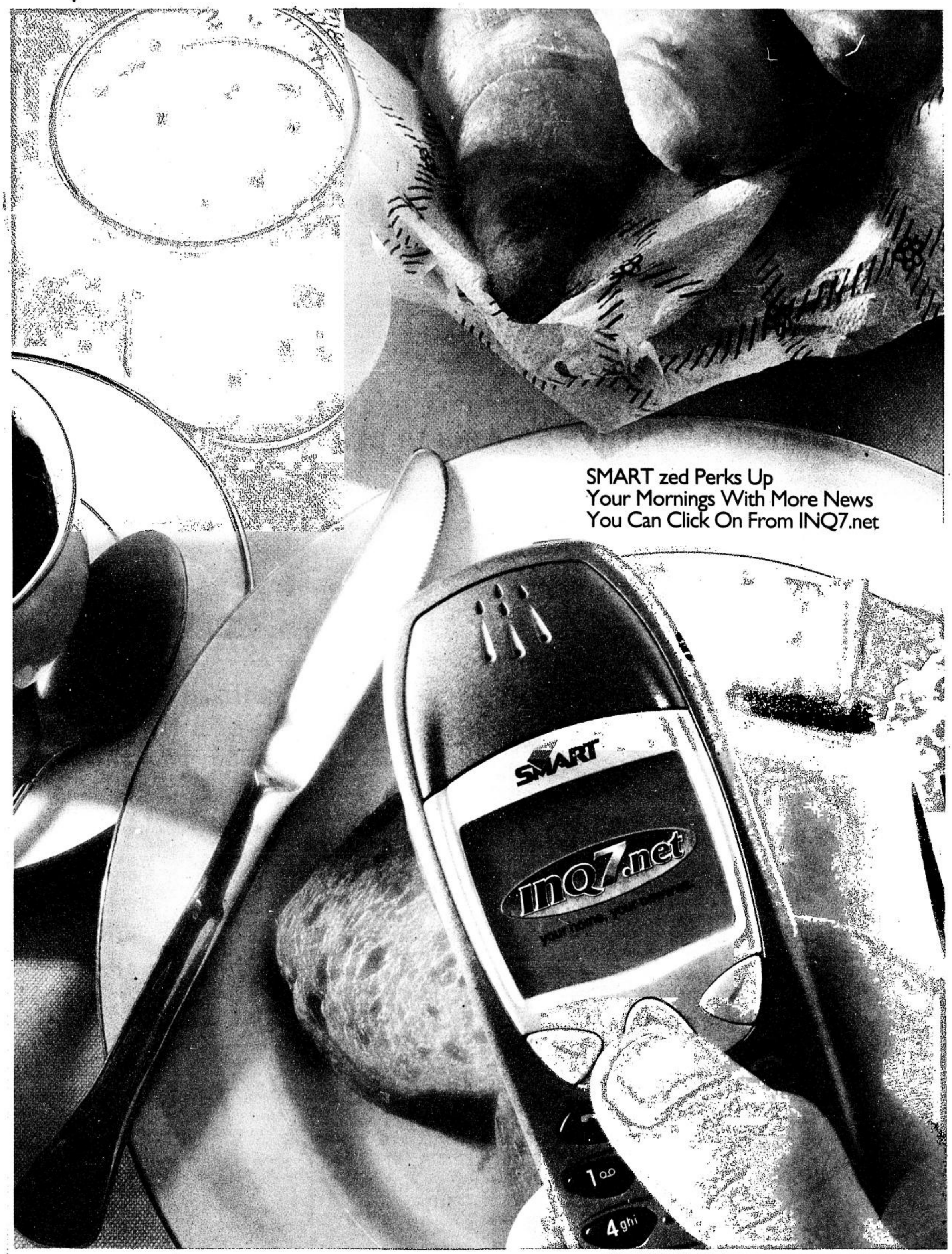

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Si Ipe, si Bistek o si Pip?

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

JUST like Marco Sison's hit song "*Si* Aida, *si* Lorna *o si* Fe?" many people are having a hard time predicting who among three actors currently fielding themselves in the vice-mayoralty races in the May elections is going to emerge as victor.

Vice mayor

The three actors are Phillip Salvador or "Ipe" as vice mayor of Mandaluyong, Herbert Bautista, more commonly known as "Bistek," for Quezon City and Tirso Cruz II *aka* "Pip" in Las Piñas.

Among the three, I know Ipe the least. Although we have been bumping into each other in the past, it was only when he got linked to Kris Aquino that I got to know the person behind the action star.

I first learned about Ipe's involvement with Kris while I was line-producing the Ruffa-Robin starrer "Lab Kita, Bilib Ka Ba?" in Tanay. Apparently, Phillip was also shooting another movie at the same location with Kris Aquino.

Soon enough, news about Phillip and Kris' closeness reached my ears, although I never really gave it much thought. Admittedly, I could never imagine Kris falling for Ipe, I always thought Kris' taste in men ran towards younger men.

Relationship

So, imagine my surprise when the hearsay turned out to be true after all! Eventually, I would see Kris in various places with Ipe. Still, I never thought it would lead to something more serious.

One time, I had the chance to sit at the same table with Kris and Ipe. It was the first time I saw them as a couple (Kris was already pregnant). And was I amazed at the change in Ipe!

Obviously, Ipe learned how to humble himself by letting Kris shine. If Ipe was jolly or bubbly before, when he got involved with Kris he became more serious in his outlook in life.

But if I was surprised at Phillip's being with Kris, imagine my shock when I learned of his political plans! As a person and I guess as a politician, Ipe's battlecry has always been "*Kaibigang hindi nang-iiwan.*" And what better proof than how Ipe handled what happened to Jingoy during People Power II? Ipe stood by Jinggoy up to the lowest point, even in the face of pressures for him to look the other way.

Witness

Moving on to Herbert, this is one guy whom I know really well. I have been a witness to his growth from childhood up.

As an actor, I believe Herbert is the Woody Allen of the Philippines from his timing down to his intelligence.

I remember one time when he had a big crush on Lea Salonga (pre-"Saigon" days). He visited her in New York but never really got past the getting-to-know-you stage.

Looking back, I think that, if only Herbert was more aggressive, then maybe he would've made better progress. (Can you imagine how Herbert's campaign strategy would look like if he ended up with Lea?)

As a politician, Herbert could easily put more seasoned politicians' achievements and qualifications to shame. He started off as a member of the Kabataang

Barangay, then councilor and eventually as vice mayor of Quezon City. In fact, There is talk that he should've won as mayor during the last electoral race (versus Mayor Mathay), except that no one can prove it.

SALVADOR, BAUTISTA, and CRUZ. All running for vice mayor in different localities.

Preparedness

If we're going to talk about his academic background and preparedness for politics, there's no question about it. While most actors are taking a crash course in public administration, he has already finished various disciplines (he knows the constitution, has had military training, etc.) that put him well ahead of the race.

So what's the possible drawback to all this? Let's just say that intelligence does not always win favor in the eyes of the voting public. There's such a thing as a person being too bright. He should find a way to woo the public.

Finally, Tirso Cruz III. When I say I know Tirso from way back, I mean *way* back. We started out almost at the same time. I remember meeting Tirso when he was still an unknown actor hanging around Nora Aunor during the latter's pre-Superstar days.

At the time, I thought Tirso didn't know how to speak Tagalog, since he was always speaking in English when Nora was around. Later, I found out that he just wanted to impress Nora and could speak the vernacular like the native that he is! From then on, we became very close (in fact, I even lived with Nora and Pip in the same apartment once when we were in the States).

Risk-taker

As a person, Pip is the kind who lives by the saying "No guts, no glory." Tirso is a risk-taker—but he calculates every move. For example: For years, Tirso had always played goody-goody roles, until he hibernated. Then, when he decided to make a comeback, he chose to do offbeat character roles, and that's when his acting got noticed. Knowing Pip, I'm sure he calculated that move, and time eventually proved his instincts right.

Which is not to say that he presumed how every decision would turn out. As a rule, Tirso is the type who'd say, "*Maniniwala ako kapag gumigiling na ang kamera.*" Pip is very practical and realistic, he knows his strengths and weaknesses.

One of his weaknesses, if you can call it that, is girls. Pip is the type who falls in love easily. But looking back, despite the fact that I always thought that Nora and Pip looked good together, it never entered my mind that they'd eventually end up marrying each other. And true enough, Pip eventually tied the knot with a non-show biz girl.

Disenchanted

Lastly, Pip is a people pleaser. In the past, whenever Pip found out that fans got disenchanted with something he said or did, you could be sure that he would make it a point to clear everything up with them and win back their trust.

So who among these three vice-mayor hopefuls will eventually get their constituents' nod?

Take your pick: Si Ipe, si Bistek o si Pip?

Mytown members travel to Asia to promote their album

BY JOCELYN VALLE

"THEY are boys. We are men. And we're taking the airwaves!" says U2's Bono in an interview with Channel V. The lead singer of the Irish band that copped the top honors at the recent Grammys is, of course, referring to boy groups, whose albums currently rule the charts.

More boy bands

Critics have been predicting an end to the trend but it seems that their popularity won't wane anytime soon. More and more boy bands are coming out, particularly from the US, England and Ireland. One of them was in town recently. Too bad that Mytown's visit coincided with Edsa 2, most people didn't know the Irish quartet was here.

Try the record stores instead. MCA Universal has released their self-titled album. Mytown is composed of Marc Sheehan, 22; Danny O'Donoghue, 18; Paul Walker, 20; and Terry Daly, 20, who banded together three years ago in Dublin, Ireland. They aim for international fame and feel that releasing an album under a global label will help them attain their goal.

They've been getting attention in the UK and have done a special performance in Bosnia for the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson. The young singers have toured key cities in Asia and their next stop might be the capital of entertainment, the US.

What's to look forward to in "Mytown"? A lot of mid-tempo tunes, they chorus.

Marc finds solace in composing tunes. He and his groupmates were able to come up with 50 songs for their debut album. Selecting the final 12 songs was very difficult, he recalls. He's thankful to the producers and songwriters who have collaborated with them.

Video

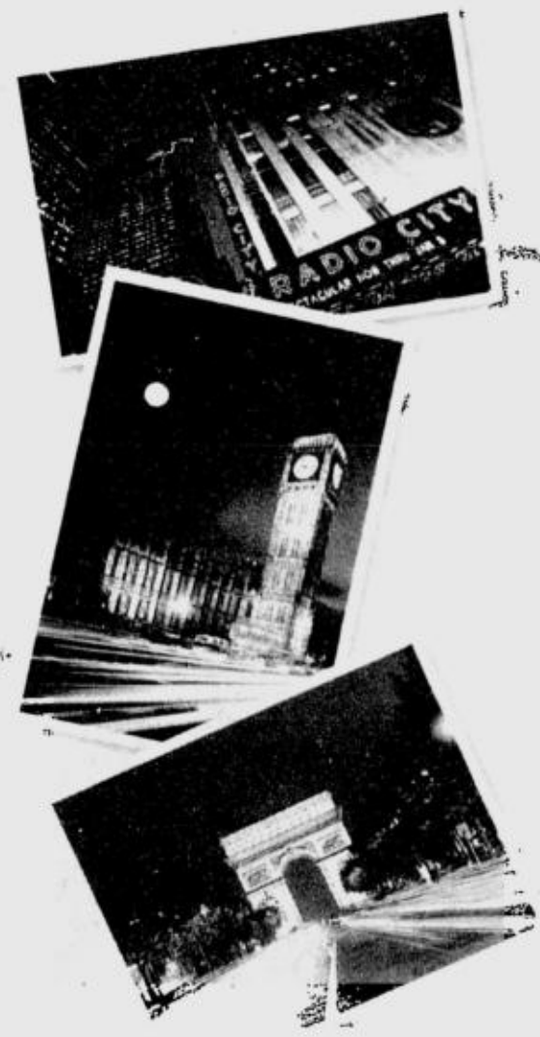
For instance, the members of the famed vocal group, Boyz II Men. When Mytown was recording in Los Angeles and they heard that Boyz II Men was filming a video in the city,the Irish boys mustered enough guts to troop to the video's set and introduce themselves to the members of Boyz II Men.

They got very lucky because a month later, they found themselves in a Philadelphia studio writing and recording songs for their album with no less than the "harmony gods of the world." "Lifetime Affair" and "The Day" are products of that musical interaction.

Meeting Teddy Riley of the Backstreet Boys is another great example of Mytown's tenacity and courage. "When we were in Virginia, which is Riley's home base," recalls Marc, "we decided to take a chance and knock on his door. Just like that. We have a motto: Whoever we get into a room, they'll work with us eventually."

After listening to some of Mytown's songs, Riley agreed to work on "Body Bumpin," "C'mon Everybody" and the Wham original, "Everything She Wants." Meanwhile, Narada Michael Walden, whose worked with Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston, helped the boys in "Love Sent Angel."

MYTOWN. Banded together three years ago in Dublin, Ireland.



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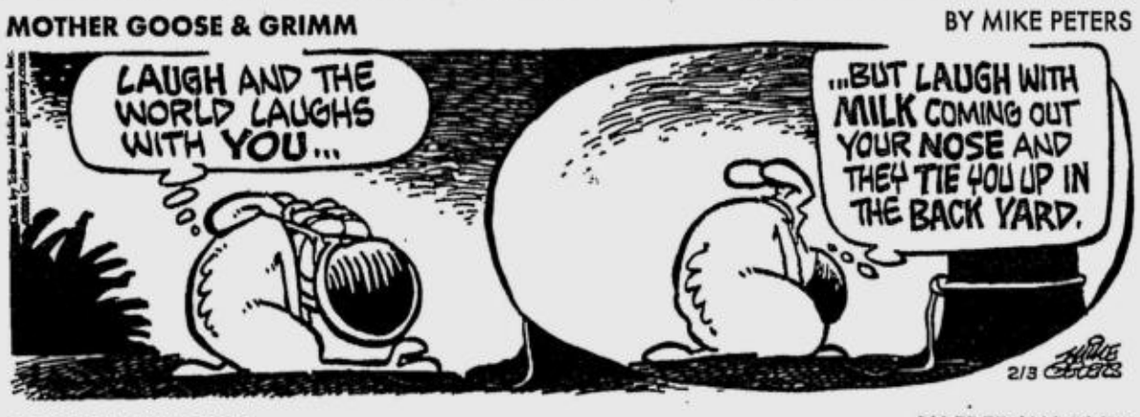

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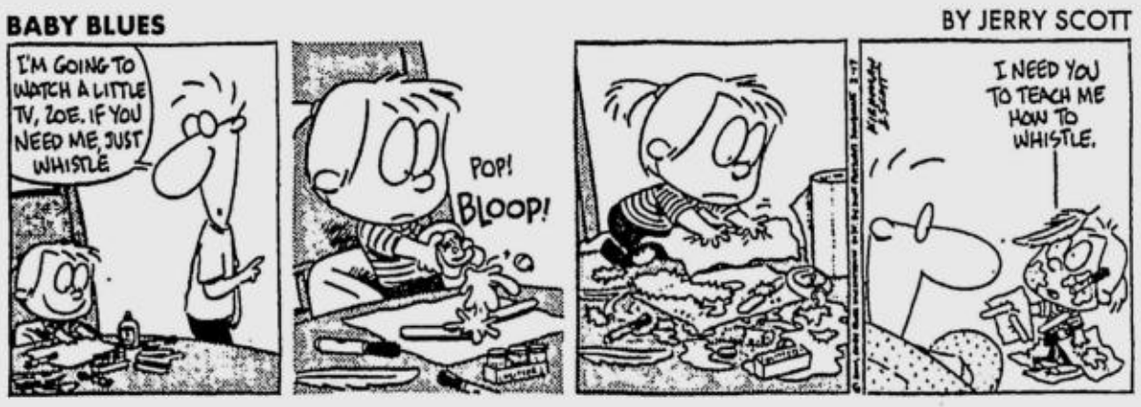

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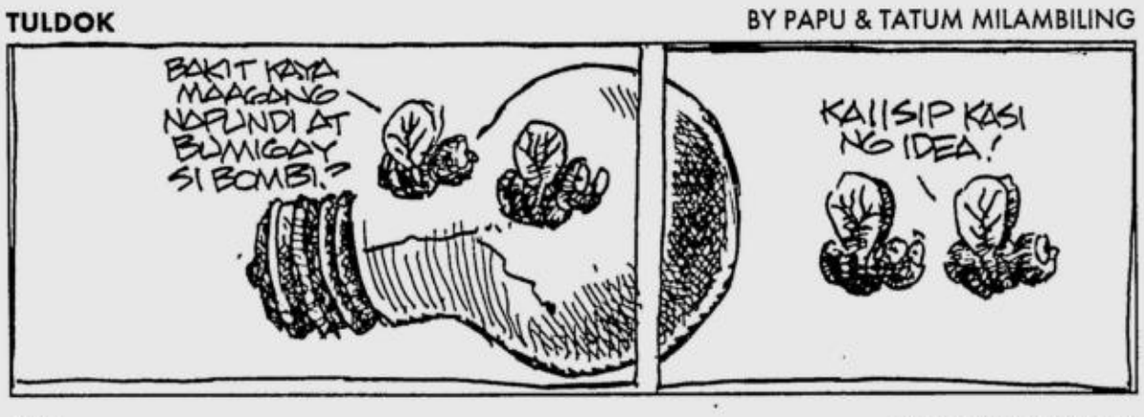

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jean Harlow, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Miranda Richardson, David Faustino, Nicolas Freeling, Jessica Biel

Happy Birthday: Your mind, filled with great ideas and wonderful intentions, is moving a mile a minute. Now all you have to do is harness your energy. Take a positive approach: Give some thought to what you truly want to accomplish and then make it so. Your mission this year is to make headway, regardless of the sacrifices required. Your numbers: 4, 19, 25, 31, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can talk to close friends about your future plans and intentions. They will not only listen, but also provide you with some sound advice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be cautious of deception when dealing with an organization that you are contemplating joining. Situations may not be as they appear financially. Don't be too eager to let others use your money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have to keep busy if you wish to avoid flying off the handle. Your mate may drive you crazy if you allow it. Physical activity will help alleviate stressful situations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You must tie up loose ends before you can move on to other things. You will be rewarded for a job well done. Be sure to give others credit for their help.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be in a high creative cycle. Use your ability to present your ideas colorfully to those in a position to help you. Your presentation skills will be recognized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will unravel if emotional confrontations with your mate get out of hand. Try to compromise without going overboard, or you will feel that you've been taken advantage of.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Check out all the possibilities. Take advantage of courses that will enhance your present position or offer opportunities to change your career direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can help others make wise choices about their personal financial position. You should look into ways of improving your diet, getting more sleep or changing your routine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can have a memorable night if you plan carefully. Think of all the things that will please your partner, and I doubt you'll get any resistance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look into making changes that will help you look and feel better about yourself. Get help if necessary, but quit those bad habits you've picked up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to enjoy life with friends or family for a change. Entertainment will get your mind off your worries. Good friends will help if you ask.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Relatives will not be on the same wavelength as you. Don't try to push your opinions or beliefs on others. Problems with landlords or tenants will lead to disputes.

Birthday Baby: You are charming, clever and caring all rolled up into one little bundle. You will take the world by storm with your intellectual, wide-eyed curious nature. You will offer hope and be popular.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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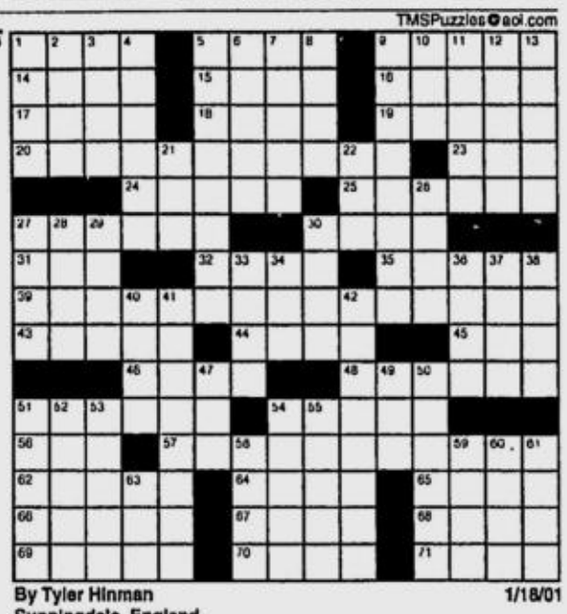

ACROSS
1 Simon Says player
5 Lip
9 Seizes
14 Green of Austin Powers movies
15 Give up
16 Pale purple
17 Words represented by a colon
18 Press
19 Die down
20 Writing utensil
23 Calendar abbr.
24 Compact memory
25 Moss Hart's autobiography
27 Discuss again
30 La __ Tar Pits
31 Exploit
32 In __ (actually)
35 Some voices
39 Microsoft Excel component
43 "Don Quixote" sculptor
44 Sea swallow
45 August birth, usually
46 Mine finds
48 Threatening words
51 Abduct
54 Market figures
56 Actress Lupino
57 "Leaving Las Vegas" star
62 Tablet choice
64 Cassini of fashion
65 Trojan War hero
66 Numbers game
67 Actress Croft
68 Washed-out
69 Water vapor
70 Culturally pretentious
71 Periods

DOWN
1 You wish!
2 Mexican money
3 Caesar's words to Brutus
4 Beach Boys hit, "Help Me __"
5 Crushed
6 Of gold
7 Placards
8 Put one's foot down?
9 Quickly look through
10 Kid
11 Texas landmark
12 Stick in a relay race
13 Setting
21 "__ the season..."
22 Jug handle
26 After-shower powder
27 Get a move on
28 Sports award
29 Zeus' sister
30 Miller or Molson, e.g.
33 Fast jets: abbr.
34 Thar __ blows!
36 Spill the beans
37 Spanish cheers
38 Blackthorn
40 School in England
41 Haphazardly
42 Bomb dropper
47 Grammatical starter?
49 In medias __
50 Get away
51 Murders
52 No genius
53 "Divine Comedy" poet
54 Kind of panel
55 Ready for action
58 Kind of pop
59 Not quite shut
60 Festive party
61 Alimony recipients
63 Greek letter

By Tyler Hinman
Sunningdale, England
1/18/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	A	M	S		B	A	R	E	S		H	A	R	E
T	R	I	P		A	B	A	S	H		A	X	I	L
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I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E		L	O	S	S	E	S
P	A	S	S	E			D	I	V	O	T			
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E	N	D	S		C	A	T	E	S		E	T	N	A

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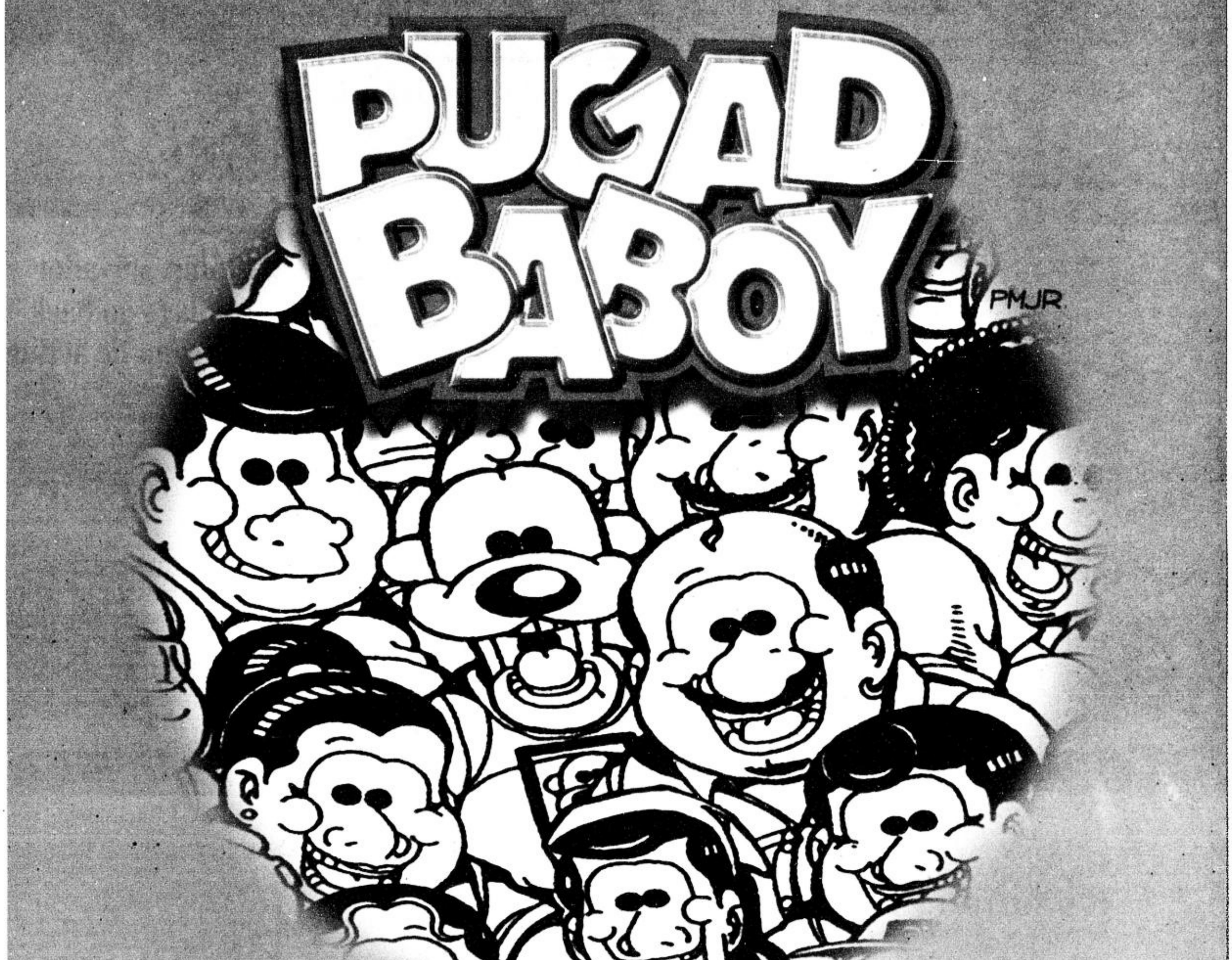

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Cody Moreno joins PDI's dating game

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

LAST Feb. 26, we witnessed how Cody Moreno earned points as he joined the dating game at the Inquirer's post-Valentine celebration, "Happy Hearts." He was easygoing and pleasant as he listened to the answers of the female searchers.

He wished that he could go out with all of them because they all showed the different facets of a Filipina. His song, "Bb. Filipina" in his first album, "Nakikiusap" under Star Records, aptly mirrors his sentiments about the Filipino women.

He took up an International Business course at the California State University in Los Angeles but his passion for singing prevailed. It wasn't easy because he had to travel back and forth from Los Angeles to Manila. Then he agreed to change his image to a "sexy but wholesome one" when Daddy Wowie began to manage his career.

He gained exposure through commercials for Caltex, Secret, and Nestle Yogurt. He became a model for Levi's, Great Outdoors, Rustan's, Slimmer's World visa and Takashima. But he claims that he lost a lot of modeling jobs because of his looks. "They say that I look so Oriental because of my eyes. Sometimes I'm mistaken for a Japanese or Chinese. They can't pinpoint my look so I got rejected in some commercials."

MORENO. Change of image.

Last year Cody appeared in "Star Drama Presents: Burn" with Diether Ocampo and Vanessa del Bianco and got a lot of good feedback. "I'm happy about it. Even if I joined the series only in the last two episodes, it was a good learning experience. My director, Connie Macatuno, had good ideas," Cody reveals.

Opening of Onstage at Greenbelt

Onstage is an 800-seat theater with an orchestra pit, catwalks, flyers and a stage that can accommodate productions for theater, ballet and concerts. The launch started with cocktails at the lobby of Greenbelt last Feb. 23.

Ryan Cayabyab smoothly hosted the show. Wolfgang opened the event with a track from their Semenelin album. Their song kept us awake because it was intense and noisy. We hope that Basti Artadi, Wolfgang's vocalist can do another musical this year.

Ella Mae Saison sang her hit ballad, "Till My Heartaches End." She had a good voice. She could give Regine Velasguez and Jaya tough competition, but she hasn't been given the push that she deserved and needed.

Malik gave an R & B feel to Carlos Santana's "Maria, Maria." He had presence, so we might see him in future productions.

Jon Santos got a lot of laughs as he spoofed Armida Siguion-Reyna. Nope, he didn't do a tough impersonation of the former MTRCB Chairman but played her as a cool, elegant host-performer in "Aawitan Kita." Jon did "Aray" and "Ang Tipo Kong Lalake" *kundiman*-style, "Simpleng Babae" became a modern version of "Magtanim Ay Di Biro."

The Company did a medley of Burt Bacharach songs. Their voices blended well and got the approval of the audience. And their *a capella* version of the "Mission Impossible" theme brought the house down.

Carlos Agassi's winning streak continues

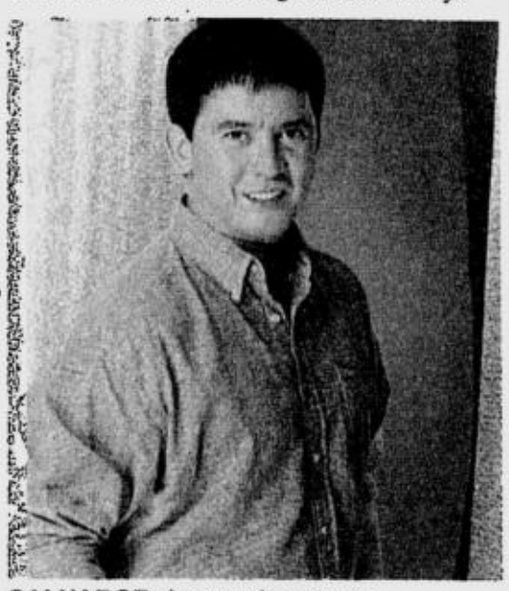
NO question about Carlos Agassi being the hottest hunk of the season, but he says that fortunately, the steam hasn't gone to his head. "It's so easy to feel and act *sikat*, specially in this business where attitude sometimes does matter. But I'd rather remain grounded and approachable because more than anything else, it's who I really am," he says.

Agassi describes himself as "easy to please, *mababaw* and generous to a fault," traits which have tempted others to take advantage of him. "That's fine, because it pays to be nice. Of course, over the years, I've learned to be assertive and say 'no!' when the need arises."

Many of the beautiful things that have happened to his career are products of life's little surprises. His being a rap artist came at a perfect time when the music industry needed someone who looked really gorgeous and could rap at the same time.

He was a replacement to Piolo Pascual in the role he now enjoys in the daily soap 'Saan Ka Man Naroroon." He was originally intended to be one of the second stringers for Sunday noontime show "ASAP," but he's now among the front-liners.

Agassi's wholesome image and his to-die-for looks have opened doors for commercials and product endorsements. And with the millions he has earned so far, he has made some pretty smart moves like investing in real estate and treating himself and his family to a 'White Christmas' in the States during the recent holidays.



SALVADOR. Impressive stunts.

Phillip Salvador wants to go back to dramatic acting

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

WHEN the name Phillip Salvador is mentioned, the tag action star usually comes to mind. In fact, in his latest picture, "Kaaway Hanggang Hukay," he plays a military officer assigned to protect the life of a visiting prime minister who's targeted for assassination by the villain, played by Edu Manzano. The two are former classmates at the PMA who go their separate ways after they're assigned in Mindanao.

One can expect a lot of firefights, stunts involving exploding vehicles and the traditional romp with the leading lady, who in this case is played by Ina Raymundo.

Brocka protegee

What many moviegoers forget is that Phillip made his name in the drama genre where he excelled with the support and guidance of the acclaimed director Lino Brocka. His movies "Jaguar," "Karnal," "Kapita Sa Patalim," and "Ora Pro Nobis" are prime examples of the best in Philippine cinema.

Today, although Phillip is happy about his action movies, which do very well at the box-office, he longs to go back to his roots as a serious actor and tackle a dramatic movie, for a change. The problem is that producers are not yet willing to buck the trend which favors the action genre.

The audience continues to line up for his action-packed movies which are painstakingly crafted by Phillip, who usually gets involved with the production aspect. That's probably why the actor does only one movie a year, two at the most. He's very choosy about his projects.

One of his frustrations is that Brocka's "Ora Pro Nobis" was never shown in commercial release. The movie about a fictitious cult in Mindanao was produced during the martial law years and made it to film festivals abroad, but the political situation in the country prevented it from being screened in local theaters.

It was shown at the UP Film Center where Phillip remembers seeing the late Ishmael Bernal. The director congratulated Phillip after the screening and told him, "*Sana mapalabas ito*." That was the last time he saw Bernal.

Phillip's problem was different then. After doing several dramas, he wanted to do an action picture but producers wouldn't bite. He reminded them that when he was just starting in the business as a bit player, he was one of the goons who made life miserable for the leading man, Fernando Poe, Jr. in "Alupihang Dagat." He remembers another aspiring actor then trying to make it in the business – Lito Lapid.

Phillip was finally able to do his first action movie with Viva Films, "Gabi Na, Kumander" directed by Pepe Marcos.

Bedroom scene

His latest project involves the traditional bedroom scene with the leading lady. When they were discussing possible actresses for the role, Phillip said they wanted somebody with the caliber of Elizabeth Oropesa, someone who has sexual attraction and good acting ability. Ina Raymundo was a unanimous choice.

The pivotal scene with Ina took all of eight hours to shoot because Philip says director Joey del Roasario was "*malandi*" with the love scene. Since the two are already experienced at doing love scenes, the shooting proceeded smoothly.

There were no uncomfortable moments. In fact between set-ups, the two just kept laughing and laughing while waiting for their scene to be shot.

This was in contrast to Phillip's first love scene in a movie. The picture was "Mananayaw" where he and co-star Chanda Romero frolicked in an outdoor scene. Phillip was inexperienced and kept making mistakes. He had to apologize several times to Chanda. The two clicked as a team and later even appeared in a stage play, Tennessee Williams' "A Satreetcar Named Desire."

Action films always involve stunts, and when it comes to stunts, Phillip prefers doing them without the benefit of a double. Unless of course his stunt director finds it too dangerous for Phillip because he might suffer serious injuries.

These days, the actor saves the more grueling stunts for the last days of shooting. That way, he can conserve energy and do a good job. He realizes that he's not getting any younger so he saves his more physical scenes for the last.

This doesn't mean he has slowed down on action-packed sequences. He has jumped over exploding vehicles and performed action packed scenes that are impressive onscreen because they don't look faked. Moviegoers are very demanding having been used to the kind of action movies made by Hollywood. Phillip tries never to disappoint.

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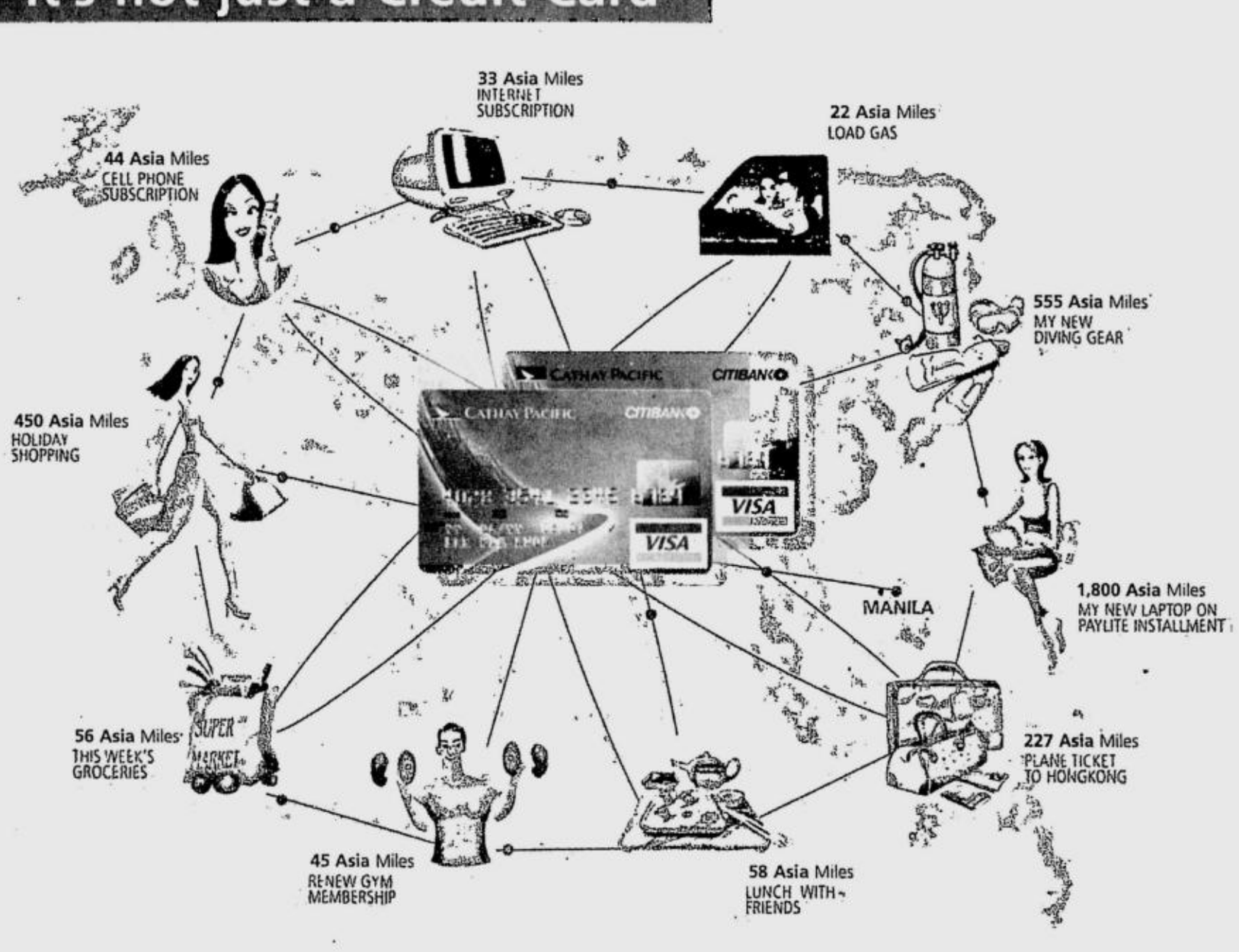

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Robin Williams, Denzel Washington start new films

WARNER Bros. proudly announces the start of production of two major motion pictures that promise to bolster the studio's 2001 lineup. They are "Training Day" starring Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke, and "Death to Smoochy" which stars Robin Williams and Edward Norton.

WILLIAMS. Stars in "Death to Smoochy."

WASHINGTON. Plays an undercover cop in "Training Day."

Idealistic rookie

Commencing production last month in Los Angeles, "Training Day" is a gripping drama set in the shadowy world of undercover police work. It tells the story of a veteran LAPD narcotics officer (Washington) who guides an idealistic rookie (Hawke) through his first day on the brutal inner-city beat.

Directed by Antoine Fuqua ("The Replacement Killers"), from an original screenplay written by David Ayer ("U-571"), "Training Day" is produced by Jeffrey Silver and Bobby Newmyer ("The Santa Clause," "sex, lies and videotape").

Meanwhile, director Danny DeVito's satirical comedy "Death to Smoochy" began production on Jan. 17 on location in New York. The film is the second project under the recently announced alliance between Warner Bros. Pictures, FilmFour Ltd. and Senator Films.

Continuing relationship

"'Warner Bros.' continuing relationship with FilmFour reinforces our commitment to release a diversified slate of films that include high quality, edgier fare," said Lorenzo di Bonaventura, president of Worldwide Production for Warner Bros.

"Danny DeVito's distinctive filmmaking sensibilities make him the ideal director to render this timely satire in collaboration with the singular talents of Robin Williams, Edward Norton and the rest of our gifted cast."

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4. Prizes are as follows:
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   * Grand Draw Prizes
   First Prize -Entertainment Showcase
   Second Prize -Kitchen Showcase
   Third Prize -Games and Amusement Showcase
5. For the Daily Draws, the following shall apply:
   5.1 Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases on a particular date are valid for that date only.
   5.2 An accountholder can win everyday, but only ONCE in each day's draw.
   5.3 Draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
Feb. 5 to Feb 11	Feb. 14
Feb. 12 to Feb 18	Feb. 21
Feb. 19 to Feb. 25	Feb. 28
Feb. 26 to March 4	March 7
March 5 to March 11	March 14
March 12 to March 18	March 21
March 19 to March 25	March 28
March 26 to April 1	April 4

   A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   5.4 The ₱1,000 prize will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
6. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   6.1 All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchases within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   6.2 Grand Draw will be held on April 4, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
   6.3 An accountholder can only win once. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   6.4 All Grand Prize winners can claim their prizes at 15/F BPI Head Office Ayala Ave. Makati City. Just present your Express Teller ATM card and one (1) valid ID (driver's license, company ID, SSS ID).
   6.5 Prizes are not convertible to cash. All prizes are tax-free.
7. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations:
   • BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City • BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City • BPI Baguio Burnham Branch, Baguio City • BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
8. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
9. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
10. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
11. All employees of BPI Unibank, its advertising and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
12. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0284 Series of 2001

Filipino filmmakers on the world scene

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

YOU often hear people asking these questions these days: "Chinese filmmakers like Ang Lee, Wayne Wang, Zhang Yimou and Joan Chen are making waves in Hollywood and other big movie capitals—so how come no Filipino director is doing as well internationally? Instead of impressing people abroad with our filmmaking talent, we depress them with the seemingly endless series of sexy movies we keep churning out. Can't we do better than *that*?"

Best practitioners

Good questions. After all, there was a time in the 1950s ad '60s when Filipino movie people paced other film artists in the region. In fact, some of our best practitioners were hired to teach filmmaking elsewhere in Asia.

Now, the Chinese are running circles around us on the international film scene. What happened? How did we erode our initial advantage so drastically through the years? And, how can we recover the ground we've lost and eventually make it in our own way in Hollywood and other important international film centers?

The local film industry was able to come up with some exceptional movies that won Asian movie awards starting in the '50s because of the "Big Four" studio system in place in those years.

Uniformity

Since filmmaking was restricted mainly to these four studios—LVN, Sampaguita, Premiere and Lebran—there was uniformity in our film products. That was both bad and good—bad, because our movies became predictable, and good because relatively uniform standards were adhered to.

In addition, the owners of those four studios had a genuine love for filmmaking and bankrolled a few specially artistic movies each year that they didn't expect would make money, but would showcase Filipino filmmaking at its best.

BROCKA. International attention.

Those "modern classics" did well not just in Asian filmfests but also in European ones like the Venice International Film Festival, where Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" impressed film buffs from different countries, despite its relatively small budget.

Venturesome filmmaking

By the 1960s, however, independent film companies started elbowing in on the Big Four's action. This development made for more varied and venturesome filmmaking, which was a good thing, but it also diluted local moviemaking standards.

This led to the *bomba* movies of the early '70s, pretty much the sort of sleazy stuff we see on our movie screens these days (we never learn, do we?).

On the other hand, some of our best filmmakers started making protest, socially-committed and/or artistic movies that once again elicited the admiration of the film world. That's why the second half of the decade of the '70s is described in retrospect as another Golden Age of the Filipino film.

Positive

This proved that there's nothing wrong with independent filmmaking *per se*, as long as gifted and committed directors use it for positive instead of exploitative ends.

By the early '80s, however, local movies' continuing roller-coaster ride dipped again, as the industry churned out one mediocre movie after another. This downbeat trend was exacerbated a few years later by the demise of two of our best directors, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal.

Brocka's death was particularly frustrating since he had already attracted not just international attention but foreign financing as well. His close colleagues reveal that he was on the verge of being tapped to direct an American movie—years before the likes of Ang Lee and John Woo moved on to international filmmaking.

World-class movies

So, it isn't quite right to say that the Chinese are better filmmakers than we are. Even after Brocka and Bernal, we have some directors who can make world-class movies.

Trouble is, our homegrown film culture has been so grievously compromised by sex and other forms of cinematic commercialism that many of our filmmakers' sensibilities have been warped too severely for them to turn out really good films, even if they passionately wanted to.

Even some of the best movies we make each year are flawed enterprises because they are the products of an untenable compromise between quality and commerciality, with the second element lording it over most productions.

Interest

That's why we don't do as well internationally as we used to do in the '50s and '70s. If we want our filmmakers to attract the interest of foreign producers, we first have to get our film culture and mind set out of the exploitative hole they're in.

Since our producers and filmmakers continue to devote 60 percent of their efforts to making sex films, the healing of our film culture doesn't look like it's going to happen anytime soon. So, the Chinese "invaders" of Hollywood have nothing to worry about, do they?

Robin . . . (From page E1)

Directed by DeVito from a screenplay by Adam Resnick, "Death to Smoochy tells the comic tale of Rainbow Randolph (Williams), the costumed star of a popular children's television show who is fired over a bribery scandal and replaced by Smoochy (Norton), a puffy, Barney-esque fuchsia rhinoceros.

Revenge

When Randolph discovers Smoochy is having an affair with his ex-lover, Nora (Catherine Keener), a top programming executive at the network, he plots his revenge. The film also stars Danny DeVito as Smoochy's agent and Jon Stewart ("Big Daddy") as the network president.

Speaking of new films from Warner Bros., the studio's upcoming summer movie "Cats & Dogs" is figuring in a delightful case of life imitating art, as the feud between former President Bill Clinton's cat Socks and dog Buddy is recently exposed.

Battle

Warner sees the battle between former White House pets Socks and Buddy as a remarkable parallel to the events in "Cats & Dogs," which will open May 25 in the US. Now that the pair has vacated the White House, the studio hopes they will lend their expertise to the film, which is currently in production, by serving as "technical" advisors.

When the First Feud made front-page news the nation was shocked to discover discord between the camera-ready cat and the huggable hound.

"It is our belief," stated Brad Ball, president, Warner's Domestic Marketing, "that the simmering rivalry between Socks and Buddy imminently qualifies them to serve as expert consultants for our film, 'Cats & Dogs,' which tackles the scratchy subject of the ongoing war between the species.

Search for authenticity

"Our search for authenticity knows no boundaries. I cannot recall when our nation has seen a bigger rivalry unless it was the time that Sylvester and Spike ended up in traction over Tweety."

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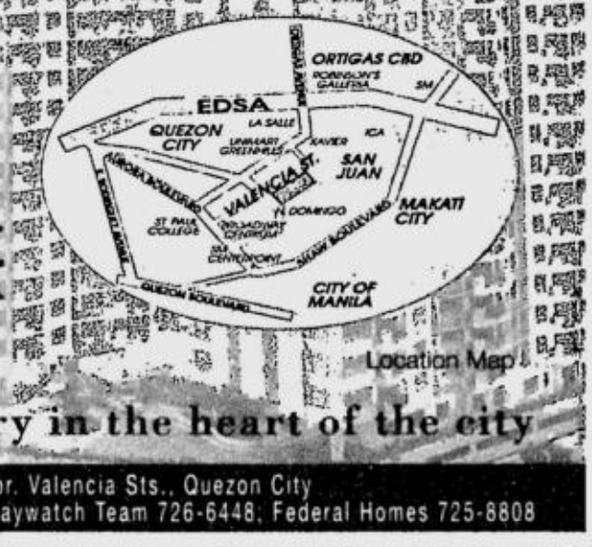

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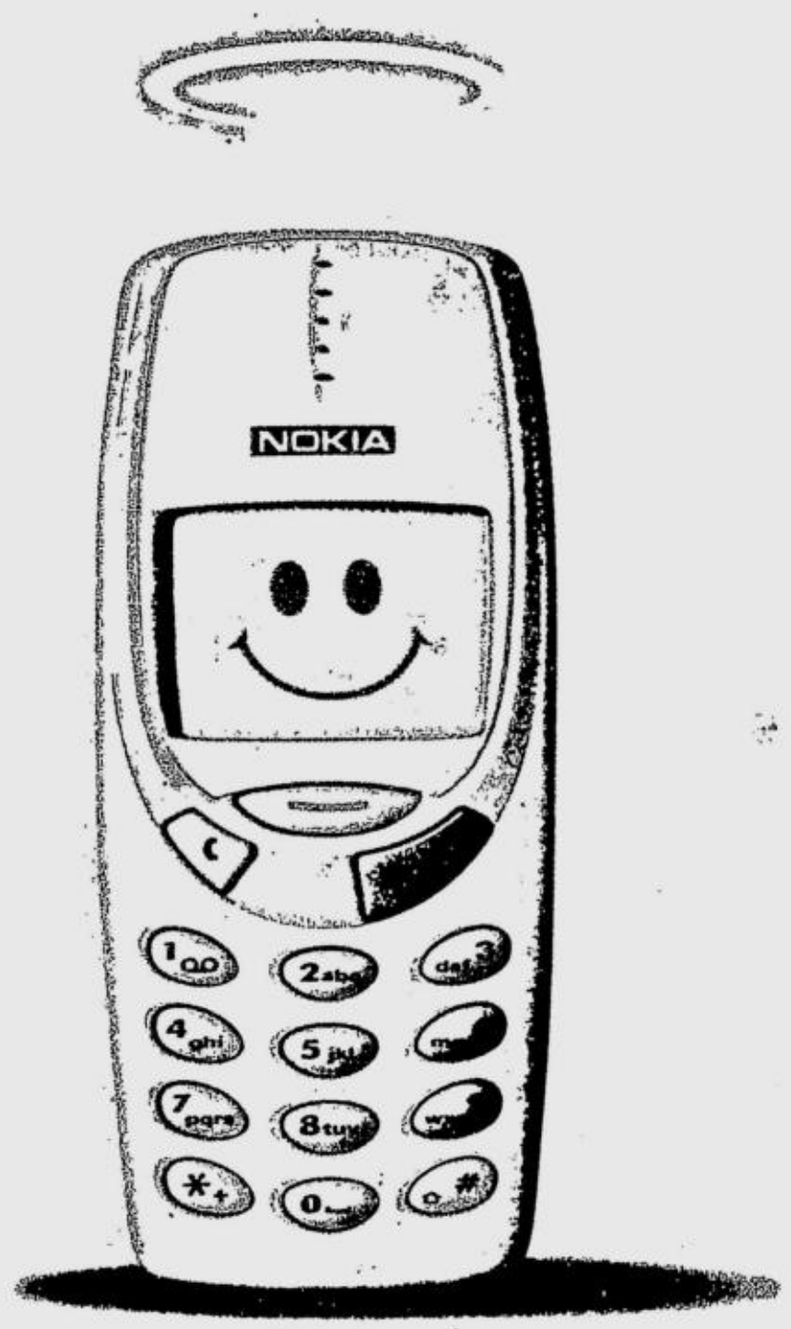

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Broken marriages in Hollywood

BY BEHN CERVANTES

(Conclusion)

DESPITE many divorces in Hollywood, show biz fans hope against hope that some celebrity marriages will last. At least in the area of matrimony, could some of the stars become role models, too?

Could these select few prove that, despite so many pressing problems, they can work things out? Could they give marriage a chance? If they could, then so can we mere mortals in the real world. And life would be so much more beautiful!

Matinee idol

But, fans everywhere were plainly saddened when matinee idol Tom Cruise filed a divorce suit against statuesque Nicole Kidman. She didn't expect it, she proclaimed. She thought they were happy enough! Yes, to be sure, there were problems, but she didn't think they were irreconcilable.

Why did he give up on her? After all, for almost a decade their union had been headline fodder for entertainment magazines. The superstars made great copy since they were articulate, goodlooking and photogenic.

Naturally, gossip was lurking in the murky background. For one thing, the Australian beauty is taller than the Hollywood hunk, whose past girlfriends have nicknamed him "Tiny," for reasons only they know for sure.

Fans were aghast when Tiny, I mean Tom, filed for divorce. After all, everything was going great guns for them as they stretched their considerable talents to gain both critical and popular praise for their hit starrers.

Doting parents

Indeed, Mr and Ms Cruise were Hollywood favorites, beautiful, sexy and rich. Above all, *they remained married*. In fact, they were doting parents of two adopted children. (Why they didn't have their own is another source of juicy gossip.)

Hollywood's marital history has constantly mortified its fans. Harrison Ford and his long-time wife, living out in Nebraska away from Hollywood glitz, seemed like a perfectly happy pair. So were Robert Redford and his attractive blonde wife. Were the fans shocked when they ended up in divorce court, in predictable Hollywood style!

Kevin Costner, like the two other superstars, appeared to be a truly talented actor with his feet on the ground. His marriage too had all the makings of a union "made in heaven." Alas, in due time, it was also placed in the hands of a divorce lawyer for financial settlement.

They certainly were *not* the exceptions. Hollywood has seen a trail of dissolved marriages that involve its biggest stars:

Football great

Buxon Jane Russell of "The Outlaw" was "happily" married to All-American football great Bob Waterfield for many years. M-G-M's Million Dollar Mermaid Esther Williams was also "happily" married to Ben Gage.

CRUISE AND KIDMAN. Like many others, their "marriage made in Hollywood heaven" recently ended up in divorce court.

So were coloratura soprano Kathryn Grayson to crooner Ben Johnson and lady-like Academy Award winner Loretta Young to her executive husband before those "too good to be true" marriages ended up in Reno, Nevada with Jerry Geisler or Greg Bautzer making good money on more marriages of the "rich and famous" gone wrong.

Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood were supposed to be happy until they divorced. The reason? They had "irreconcilable differences." After many years of separation and sundry lovers in between, the beautiful pair reconciled. Thus, they proved that love is lovelier the second time around!

Gossip

Alas, pixie Natalie drowned sometime later while Wagner was drinking scotch on their yacht with actor Christopher Walken. That was reason for a lot of gossip, too!

So, are there marriages "made in Hollywood heaven," in the improbable reel world of the movies? Yes, some celebrity marriages do survive for years and even decades despite all the temptations, problems and vicissitudes of Hollywood. Believe or not! Next week.

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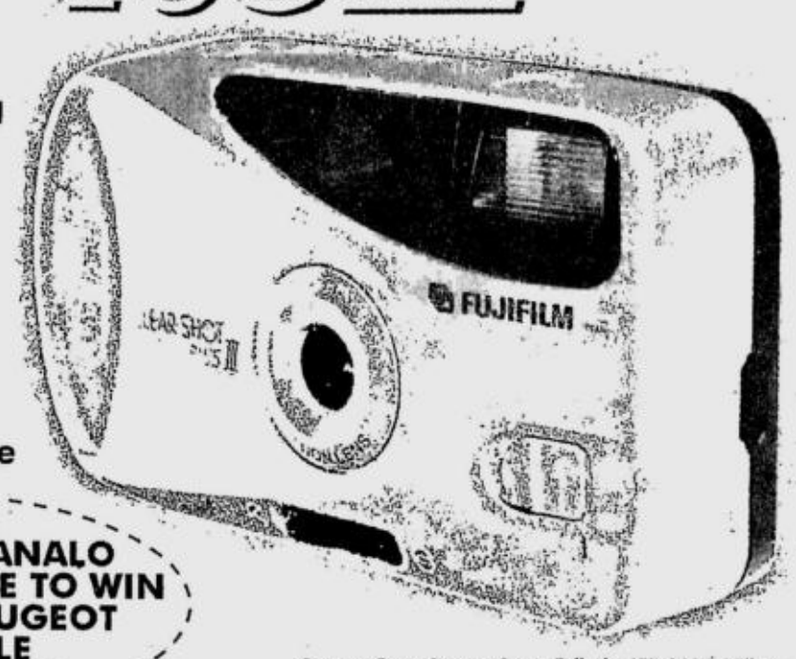

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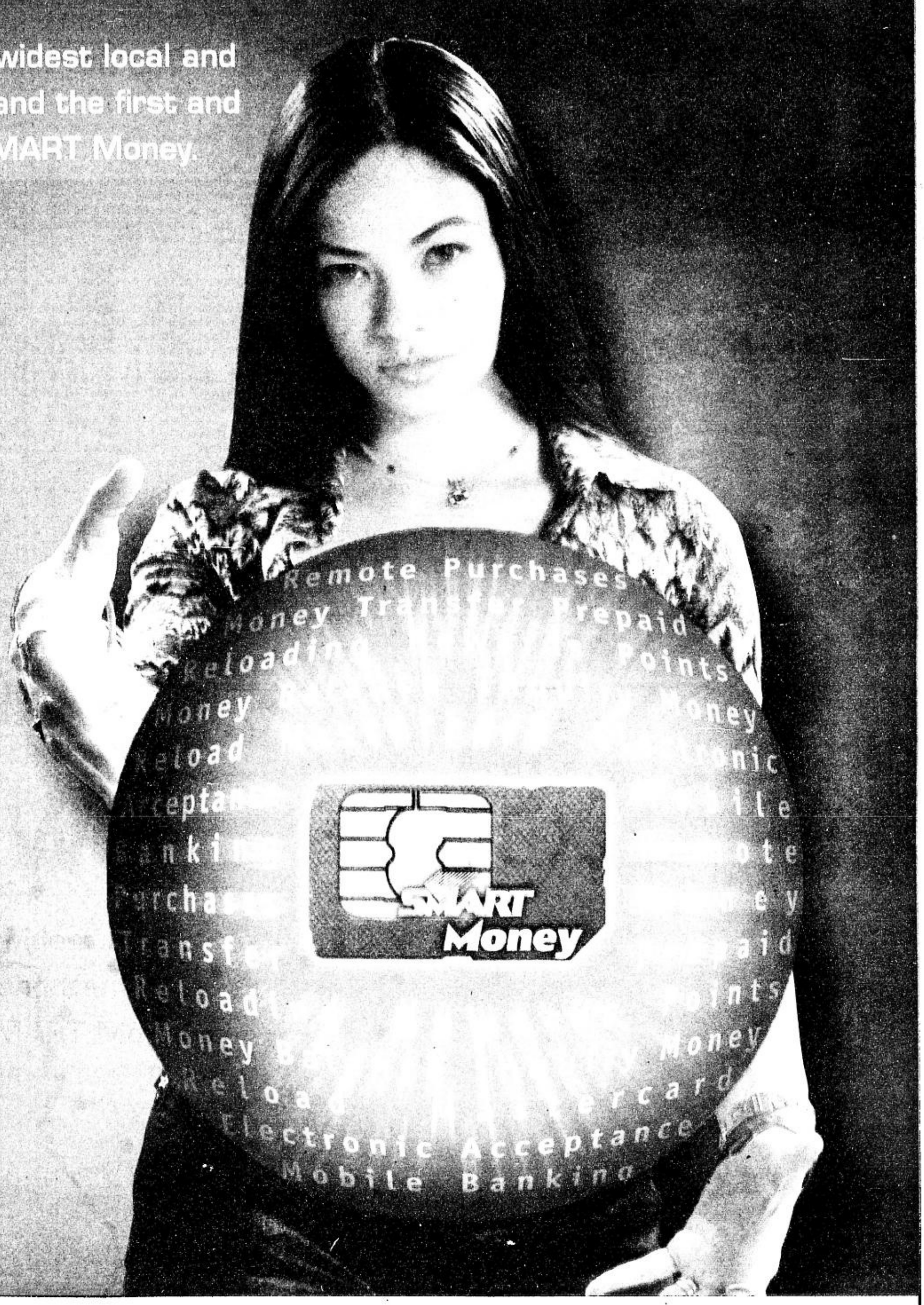

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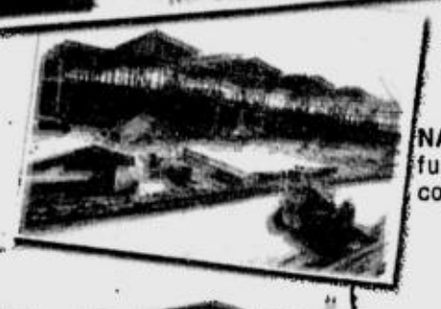
OATHTAKING with Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Executive Secretary Renato de Villa



NAIA-3 full blast construction

GM at work

GM Manda meets former President FVR upon arrival from the World Economic Forum

TURN-OVER with former MIAA GM Col. Antonio Gana

EDGARDO CARLOS MANDA:

STEERING MIAA TO A NEW DIRECTION

TOMORROW, the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) will celebrate its 19th founding anniversary in simple but meaningful rites. Highlighting the day's activities is an outreach program where, for the first time, MIAA officers and employees will interact with parentless children, children who have either been abandoned or have been left in the streets to survive and are now under the care and auspices of the Nayon ng Kabataan and Ahon Bata Center of the DSWD. This initiative was suggested by the new airport General Manager, Edgardo C. Manda, when asked about his plans for the 19th MIAA anniversary. "Ako, I believe that charity begins at home. We have DSWD institutions here in the vicinity of NAIA. Why don't we have an outreach program there?" was his quick response to the question. MIAA employees find this as a departure from the usual anniversary celebrations they have had in the past 19 years, but admit that it is indeed a noble undertaking.

A thanksgiving mass to thank the lord for another year of blessings will kick-off the day's events. To follow shortly after the mass is a special send-off for passengers of PR 318 to be led by Manda. To create a cheerful ambience during send-off, the MIAA Chorale and the DOT Rondalla will provide festive music for departing passengers of this Philippine Airlines flight to Hong Kong.

Another "first" is a one-day airportwide anniversary sale to be participated in by NAIA concessionaires. For the first time in 19 years, air travelers, airport employees and other airport users will experience "service at its best" as they are treated to special discounts and gift giving scenarios when they purchase items from participating stores.

Also on its 19th anniversary, the MIAA adds another milestone in its history as it launches corporate website with GM Edgardo C. Manda rendering the ceremonial log-on. Internet browsers will now see more of the NAIA as they surf around the net. The website offers information about the Manila International Airport Authority, the organization behind the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. It also carries information that a passenger would usually be interested to know about an airport, i.e., basic services and amenities. As it promised to continuously improve its website, the MIAA will soon be coming up with a "virtual tour" of the three NAIA terminals. Truly something to look forward to!

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE

The austere yet meaningful celebration not only heeds President Arroyo's call for simplicity in her government but reveals the principles of a man who believes that leadership and service must be firmly rooted on the best interest of people.

In his acceptance speech during the January 23, 2001 turnover rites, GM Edgardo "Ed" Manda emphasized that public office being a public trust is also a "social contract". As such, public officials must at all times, endeavor to observe the highest standards of ethics to be able to propagate the true ideals of good service to the public. In a privileged interview for the MIAA newsletter, Manda admitted that he finds his new job a very challenging one. He compared it to that of a city mayor who runs a community of people with diverse interests where the challenge lies on his ability to understand and unite them on the basis of their common objective. In NAIA, it is definitely good and quality service to airport users.

GM Manda vows to be guided by the following principles and hopes to steer the MIAA to greater limits:

First is ***leadership by example.*** "An effective leader should be able to instill solid traits such as good working habits among his people. This is actually fundamental but I believe that a leader should continuously practice this in order that his men are constantly reminded of this simple but very important element of their oath of office as government workers. Just do what is right and everything else will follow."

Second is ***leadership with transparency,*** "Every transaction should be above-board and based on sound and moral foundation to guide the management at all levels. Through my policy of constant dialogue and consultation, major decisions are never too hard to arrive at. As a firm believer that public office is a public trust, involving my people in the decision-making process, I know will never fail me."

This is ***world-class quality service.*** "Being the premier gateway to the Philippines, all users of the NAIA should be provided with not just good quality service but world-class quality service. Their security, safety and convenience are topmost priorities for us in the MIAA."

For GM Manda, the public deserves no less than this. "Unity and cooperation are the major factors to bring the NAIA to a higher level of service. I urge everyone in the MIAA to work hard to achieve this end."

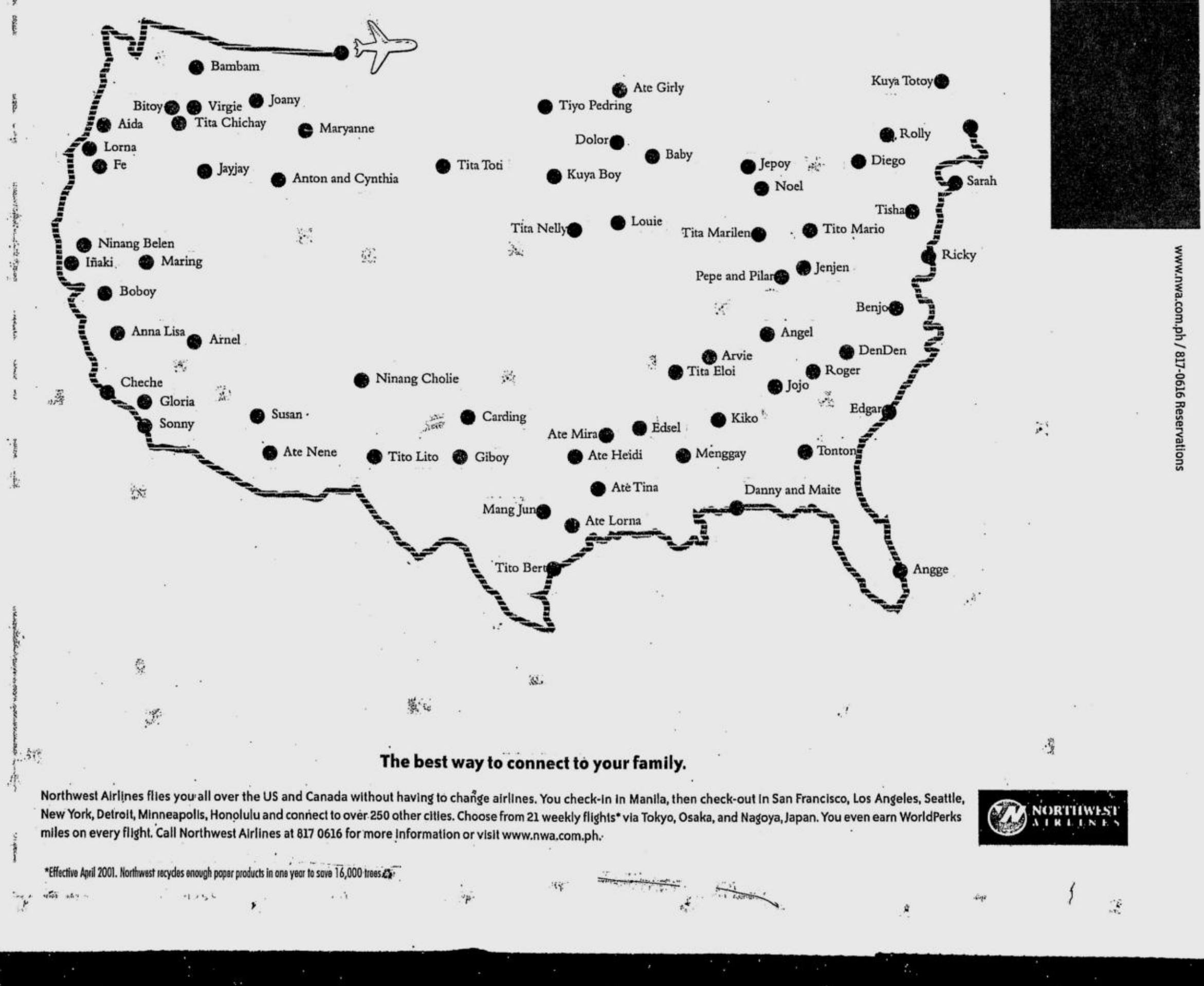
KEEPING MIAA's VISION

Despite the slump in the Philippine economy in the year 2000, the Manila International Airport Authority managed to increase its net income for the same year by 1.06 billion pesos or 70 percent higher than what it made in 1999. The increase was attributed to a more exhaustive collection of fees and charges, adoption of new revenue resources and the implementation of a full cost recovery program.

GM Manda commended the efforts of his predecessor Antonio P. Gana and has pledged to continue what he has started. But of course, he added, there has to be a continuing effort to review and innovate so that we will be able to collect more and bring down MIAA's receivable accounts to a much lower level. Accordingly, MIAA will be able to remit more to the national coffers and play an important role in the overall dept recovery program of the government. Aside from its significant contributions to the government coffers, the MIAA boasts of having completed various infrastructure projects intended to upgrade NAIA's level of service to its clients.

The new airport chief's priority is to bring up NAIA's level of service to achieve the vision of making the Ninoy Aquino International Airport globally competitive and at par with its counterparts in the world. "Development in airport technology is fast changing and it is inevitable that we will have to equip airport personnel with the required skills and knowledge to keep them attuned to the times."

His message to the employees: " Work hard and do what is right." Well said, GM Manda.



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GM Manda vows to be guided by the following principles and hopes to steer the MIAA to greater limits:

First is ***leadership by example.*** "An effective leader should be able to instill solid traits such as good working habits among his people. This is actually fundamental but I believe that a leader should continuously practice this in order that his men are constantly reminded of this simple but very important element of their oath of office as government workers. Just do what is right and everything else will follow."

Second is ***leadership with transparency,*** "Every transaction should be above-board and based on sound and moral foundation to guide the management at all levels. Through my policy of constant dialogue and consultation, major decisions are never too hard to arrive at. As a firm believer that public office is a public trust, involving my people in the decision-making process, I know will never fail me."

This is ***world-class quality service.*** "Being the premier gateway to the Philippines, all users of the NAIA should be provided with not just good quality service but world-class quality service. Their security, safety and convenience are topmost priorities for us in the MIAA."

For GM Manda, the public deserves no less than this. "Unity and cooperation are the major factors to bring the NAIA to a higher level of service. I urge everyone in the MIAA to work hard to achieve this end."

KEEPING MIAA's VISION

Despite the slump in the Philippine economy in the year 2000, the Manila International Airport Authority managed to increase its net income for the same year by 1.06 billion pesos or 70 percent higher than what it made in 1999. The increase was attributed to a more exhaustive collection of fees and charges, adoption of new revenue resources and the implementation of a full cost recovery program.

GM Manda commended the efforts of his predecessor Antonio P. Gana and has pledged to continue what he has started. But of course, he added, there has to be a continuing effort to review and innovate so that we will be able to collect more and bring down MIAA's receivable accounts to a much lower level. Accordingly, MIAA will be able to remit more to the national coffers and play an important role in the overall dept recovery program of the government. Aside from its significant contributions to the government coffers, the MIAA boasts of having completed various infrastructure projects intended to upgrade NAIA's level of service to its clients.

The new airport chief's priority is to bring up NAIA's level of service to achieve the vision of making the Ninoy Aquino International Airport globally competitive and at par with its counterparts in the world. "Development in airport technology is fast changing and it is inevitable that we will have to equip airport personnel with the required skills and knowledge to keep them attuned to the times."

His message to the employees: " Work hard and do what is right." Well said, GM Manda.

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Women's filmfest unreels at UP Film Center next Tuesday

THE 12th International Women's Film festival unreels at the UP Film Center on Tuesday, March 6 at 6 p.m. with the gala screening of "Onegin," directed by Martha Fiennes of the United Kingdom. It is preceded by the matinee screening at 4 p.m. of Olivia Lamasan's "Minsan, Minahal Kita."

Other films: March 7, 4 p.m., "How Stella Got Her Groove Back", by Kevin Rodney Sullivan. 7 p.m., "Holy Smoke" by Jane Campion.

March 8, 4 p.m., "Tunay na Tunay" by Joyce Bernal. 7 p.m., "Nurse Betty" by Neil LaBute.

March 9, 2 p.m., forum on "What Films Do Women Want?" 7 p.m., "Tanging Yaman" by Laurice Guillen.

March 10, 3 p.m., "Boys Don't Cry" by Kimberly Peirce. 6 p.m., "Erin Brockovich" by Steven Soderbergh.

March 11, 3 p.m., "Mansfield Park" by Patricia Rozema. 6 p.m., "Woman on Top" by Fina Torres.

'Planet X' on ABC-5

"Planet X," a co-production of ABS-CBN and Next Alliance, starts telecasting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7. The show, which is supported by Oxygen Wear, focuses on topics interesting to young viewers, like fashion, trends, sports, health and fitness, and social issues, using action videography, alternative music and dynamic editing.

The show will be hosted by cool and hip XJs who have a knack for finding the humorous and edgy side of life. It first hit the TV screen in 1995 and was viewed by millions of viewers in the States. It took viewers to Mongolia, South Africa's Wild Coast and even the war zone in Bosnia.

Joey's treats for March

It's going to be another eventful month for Joey@92.3: On March 6, the popular radio station will announce at Italiani's Makati the two lucky winners who will fly to picturesque Amsterdam as the winners of Joey's "Two Lips on Tulips" promo, sponsored by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Holland Tulips.

On March 5, watch out for the ballet demo prior to the screening of "Billy Elliot" at 7:30 p.m. at Cinema 6 at Glorietta IV. The outstanding film tells the heartwarming tale of a miner's son (Jamie Bell) who falls in love with ballet.

Recently, the movie's 14-year-old star surprised everyone when he beat Russell Crowe and other top contenders for the British Film Awards' Best Actor trophy.

On March 13, Joey brings out the paparazzi for the premiere of "Almost Famous" at 7:30 p.m., again at Cinema 6 at Glorietta IV. This is writer-director Cameron Crowe's coming-of-age story of a teen journalist who goes on the road with a rock band.

Joey's Acoustic Nights series features Acoustic Jive every Tuesday at Art Avenue on Pearl Drive, Ortigas (March 9, 16, 23 and 30).

Finally, starting on March 10, "Joey's Café Tour@ Figaro" brings a string and flute ensemble during the afternoon to Figaro at Glorietta (March 10), Shangri-La Plaza Mall (March 17), SM Megamall (March 24 and Festival Mall (March 31).

Star facilitators at SNACK 2001

Every year, Bibsy Carballo and the show biz talents she manages put up SNACK—the Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids. This year, the activity will be held from April 2 to 7 at Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas. The summer camp is limited to 35 boys and girls aged 7 to 13, and offers workshops in sailing, mountaineering, taekwondo, archery, photography, kite-making and flying, drawing and ceramic painting, and LUBID adventure games.

Monsour del Rosario, Sharmaine Arnaiz and Lara Fabregas will facilitate taekwondo, archery and sailing, respectively. Monsour is devoting most of his time to the Olympics Taekwondo Training Center in Makati. He will give a basic taekwondo class to the SNACK kids.

Sharmaine will assist instructors from the Philippine Archery Association, of which she is a member. And Lara will assist sailing instructor Nelson Soriano during the sailing exercises.

For details, call 721-1001.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MONSOUR del Rosario will teach basic taekwondo to kids at the Taal Lake Yacht club this April.

"PLANET X" is set to premiere on Channel 5 on March 7.

Excellent overall tonic for men

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

I HAVE a young friend who is a national team player in taekwondo. Everytime she plays in a tournament, she takes a small dose of ginseng to improve her stamina. Another friend uses ginseng everytime she starts experiencing labor pains and this helps her go through the childbirth process.

Amazing

These two examples prodded me to research more on the nature of ginseng, and the information was quite amazing. I would like to share with you today excerpts from the book "Healing Herbal Remedies" by Elias and Masline that will introduce you to the wonderful world of ginseng:

"Asian ginseng is an ancient herbal remedy highly revered in China and Korea. It is more powerful and stimulating than American ginseng. Like American ginseng, Asian ginseng contains chemicals called ginsenosides, which researchers believe make this herb the classic overall tonic to relieve emotional and physical stress in men. Ginseng stimulates the immune system and can therefore increase your resistance to disease.

"Asian ginseng is primarily a tonic for men, as it contains precursors of testosterone. But it is also appropriate for women to use for short periods during convalescence, and as a menopausal herb. The equivalent Chinese herb for women is *dong quai*.

Primary functions

Ginseng is an excellent overall tonic for men's bodies.

Ginseng is used in the treatment of general states of weakness and exhaustion.

Ginseng stimulates the production of white blood cells, which boost your immune system and increase your resistance to disease.

Ginseng may improve physical stamina.

Ginseng may counteract the symptoms of menopause in women.

Ginseng stimulates the appetite, which can be especially useful to the elderly.

Other benefits

Ginseng may increase your concentration and enhance your memory.

Ginseng has been shown to reduce cholesterol.

Ginseng gas has an anti-clotting action that may reduce the risk of heart attack.

Ginseng is often recommended by herbalists for the treatment of respiratory problems.

Ginseng may improve liver function.

In Chinese studies, Asian ginseng has been shown to be useful in the treatment of stomach cancer.

Preparation and dosage

Asian ginseng products are most commonly available in commercial form as capsules, decoctions and powder. Because of the stimulating effect of ginseng, young people should not take it for more than three weeks at a time.

Under the careful supervision of a qualified herbal practitioner, older people sometimes take smaller amounts of this herb for extended periods in order to restore vitality.

Special precautions

Because Asian ginseng is more stimulating than American ginseng, avoid taking it too close to bedtime. If you feel that it makes you feel nervous or anxious, reduce your dosage or discontinue taking the herb. Do not take it with caffeine. People with high blood pressure should not take Asian ginseng.

Because Asian ginseng may increase estrogen levels in women, it is usually not an appropriate remedy for women until menopause. At menopause, Asian ginseng can be a natural alternative to hormone replacement therapy.

Asian ginseng is not an appropriate remedy for children. If you are permanently taking an over-the-counter or prescription drug or have a specific condition (such as high blood), speak to a Chinese herbalist or herbally-oriented physician before taking Asian ginseng."

I hope you can all consider ginseng as one of nature's gifts to mankind. Try it sometime!

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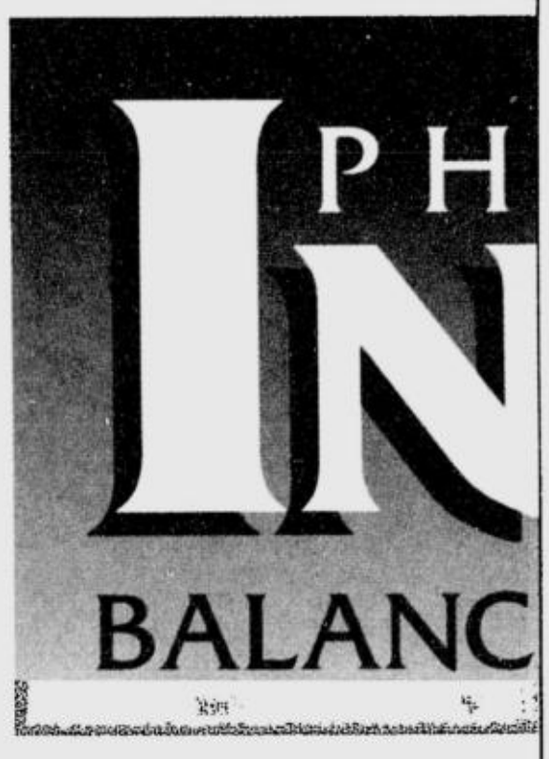

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Focus on Matt Damon and Robin Padilla

DAMON. Has romanced Winona Ryder, Claire Danes and Minnie Driver onscreen - and off.

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

"Hi, I'm from Albay and on my third year in college. I'm a big fan of Robin Padilla and Angelu de Leon. My boyfriend thinks I'm foolish because I drag him to the movies whenever their movies are playing here. *Masyado daw akong* die-hard fan! Since my parents can't afford to take me to Manila to see Robin personally, can you tell his birthday, hobbies, dreams and how he started his career? Thanks" —— *Aileen Torres of Albay.*

* * *

"I'm 26 years old, working in a law firm in Makati and a big fan of Matt Damon. I loved his movies `Good Will Hunting' and `The Talented Mr. Ripley.' Please give me a list of his old movies so I can borrow what I missed at a video store. Aside from being a good actor, I know that he's loyal to his best friend, Ben Affleck. Is it true that he broke up with Winona Ryder? Thanks". —— *Marjorie of Cherry Homes Subdivision, Bacoor, Cavite*

ROBIN PADILLA

Birthday: November 23, 1969
Zodiac Sign: Sagittarius
Sports & Hobbies: Boxing, reading religious books
Diet: Oatmeal and fruits for breakfast, a heavy meal and a light dinner. He stays away from pork.
Dream: To be a policeman and a Muslim preacher.

Manager

Robin's career began in 1984 when he was introduced to his manager, Deo Fajardo. But his father, the late Roy Padilla, former governor of Jose Panganiban, Camarines Sur, refused to allow him to venture into show business.

But at 13, Robin was determined to be an actor. He found his way alone from their home in Baguio to Deo's apartment in Quezon City.

In 1985, he appeared in "Bad Trip Boys," "See True," "Pinoy Thrillers" and "Regal Shockers." He was introduced in the movie, "Public Enemy No. 2." Then Viva Films signed him up as a contract star.

He did "Eagle Squad" but it bombed at the tills so he did "Carnap King" and "Anak Ni Baby Ama" outside his movie outfit. His succeeding movies "Barumbado" and "Bad Boy" gave him a "bad boy" image that stuck to him.

His movies "Hindi Pahuhuli Ng Buhay," "Maging Sino Ka Man," "Ang Utong Kong Hoodlum 1," and "Utol Kong Hoodlum 2: Miss Na Miss Kita," became blockbusters.

He became Viva Films' hottest male star by cultivating a "bad boy," rebellious image on and off-screen. Soon his "bad boy" traits crossed over to his personal life. He became so uncontrollable that, in 1994, he ended up behind bars.

Permit

Then in 1996, he secured a permit to shoot FLT Films' "Anak Pagsubok Lang" inside the national penitentiary. After serving three years of a 17-year sentence, he came back onscreen, reformed and grateful.

In 1998, he became Maricel Soriano's leading man in FLT's "Tulak Ng Bibig, Kabig Ng Dibdib." He was so happy that he kissed his first call slip and kept it inside his wallet.

After that, he did five films that focused on the love angle instead of hard action. He believes that the move has allowed him to expand his audience.

"Noong nawala ako, maraming gumaya sa akin. Kung puro hard action *ang gagawin ko, kawawa naman ako,"* Robin shares.

Robin credits the success of his sixth film, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" to his director, Joyce Bernal and his chemistry with Regine Velasguez. Robin claims that his female directors are more daring than his male directors.

A male director works within the limits of an action scene but a female director would go beyond that and push Robin to his limit.

"Kung babae ang director, *gusto* realistic *ang* fight scenes, *walang* routine. *Bahala na kung magkabasagan ng mukha,"* he observes.

Robin considers his sitcom, "P'wedeng P'wede," where he plays a big-hearted jeepney driver, as his therapy. He admits that he's at peace and more patient now after his conversion to Islam.

MATT DAMON

Real name: Matthew Paige Damon
Occupation: Actor, screenwriter
Birthday: October 8, 1970
Place of Birth: Cambridge, Massachusetts
Zodiac Sign: Libra
Family Background: His dad, Kent Damon, is a retired investment banker; his mom, Nancy Carlson-Paige, is a professor of education at Lesley College; brother Kyle Damon.
Best Friend: Ben Affleck
Past Romantic Relationships: Winona Ryder (actress), Kara Sands (model), Claire Danes (actress) and Minnie Driver (actress).
Currently rumored to be dating: Penelope Cruz, his co-star in his movie, "All the Pretty Horses"
Elementary & High School: Attended the Cambridge Rindge & Latin School
College: Dropped out after three years towards an English degree at Harvard University to pursue an acting career
Awards Received: Oscar & Golden Globe for Best Screenplay, "Good Will Hunting."

Filmography

Filmography: "All the Pretty Horses," "Planet Ice," "Saving Private Ryan," "Dogma," "Rounders," "The Talented Mr. Ripley," "Good Will Hunting," "The Rainmaker," "Chasing Amy," "Glory Days," "Courage Under Fire," "Geronimo: An American Legend," "School Ties," "Mystic Pizza."

Fan Mail Address: c/o PMK 955 S. Carillo drive, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90048, USA.

Struggling actor

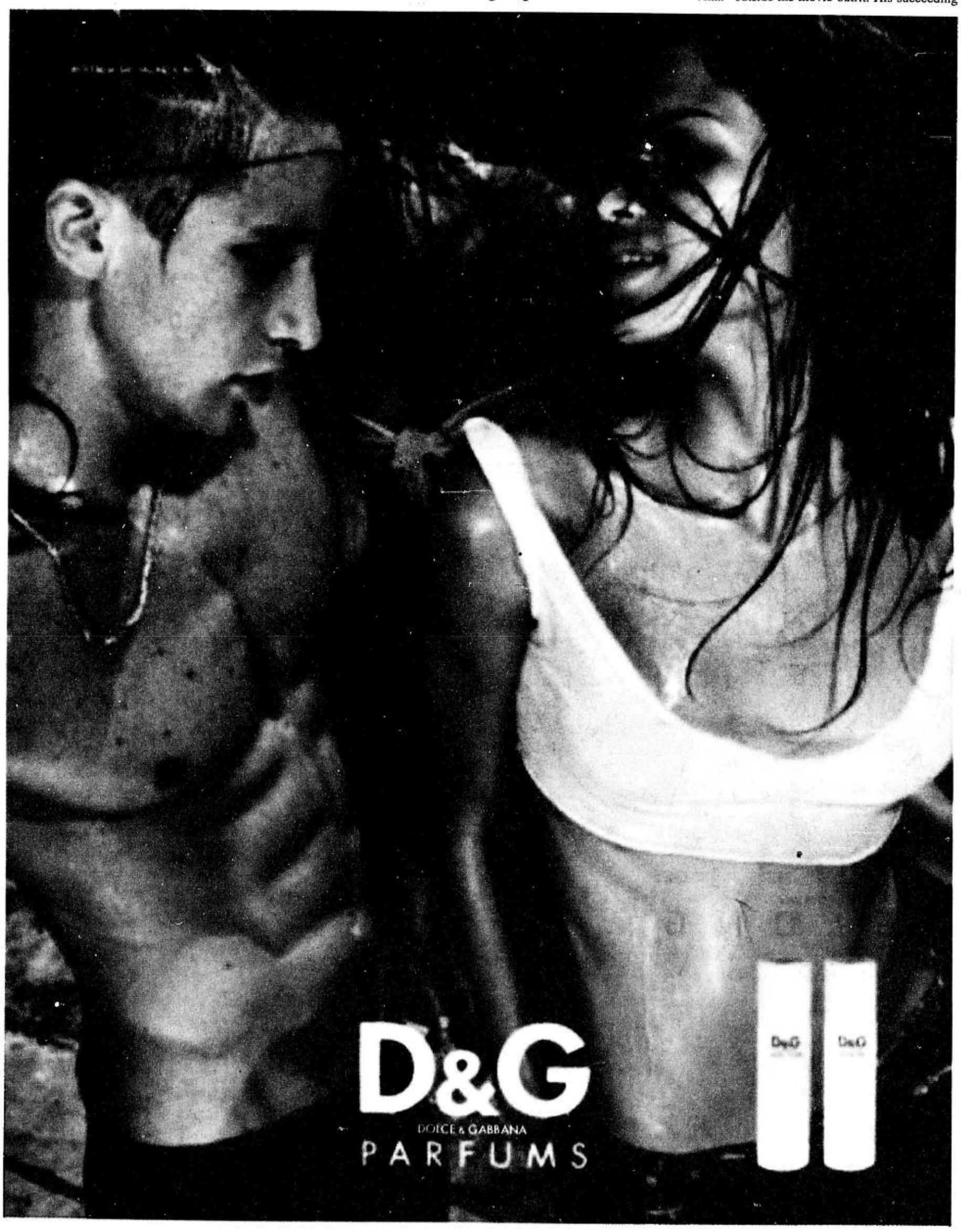
In 1995, Matt Damon was a struggling actor with good supporting roles to his credit. But his unknown status changed when director Francis Ford Coppola handpicked him to do the screen adaptation of John Grisham's "The Rainmaker."

Signing on to make that movie pushed him to sell the script of "Good Will Hunting," a project he did while taking a playwriting class in Harvard. Then he got two Golden Globe nominations, one for Best Actor and one for Best Screenplay.

Pretty soon, Matt found himself swamped with offers. He starred with Tom Hanks in "Saving Private Ryan," with Edward Norton in "Rounders," with his buddy, Ben Affleck in the religious satire, "Dogma", and with Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

He's a fine actor but he always finds himself drawn to his leading ladies. He fell in love with Minnie Driver when he did "Good Will Hunting" and with Claire Danes in "Rounders", but the romance fizzled out a few months after they stopped filming.

PADILLA. Likes working with female directors.



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SaturdaySPECIAL

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Aga goes from pet doctor to Joyce's bodyguard

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THE current *intriga* in television concerns teenage heartthrob Aga Muhlach and the Megastar, Sharon Cuneta. It seems Aga and other cast members of his new sitcom "Ang Body en Ang Guard" were scheduled to appear live on Sharon's talk show last Sunday. In the replacement for "Oki, Doki Doc," Aga changes his vet's uniform to a more humble one, that of a security guard, who is assigned to protect Joyce Jimenez, the sexy *balikbayan* daughter of a rich businessman.

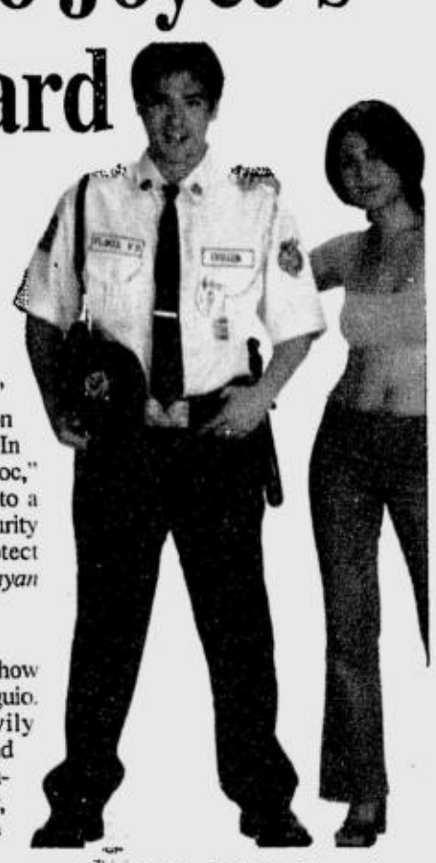
Baguio shoot

Joyce couldn't make it to the show because she was shooting in Baguio. The guesting had been heavily plugged by ABS-CBN. Aga and company were already in the studio waiting for the start of the show, which had been delayed because of the Edsa festivities coverage.

Then at the last minute, the guesting was cancelled and an old episode was replayed instead. It seems Sharon wanted to interview Aga about his forthcoming marriage to Charlene Gonzales but "Doc" Aga wanted to concentrate on his new sitcom instead. Apparently, this irked the Megastar, who was reported to have cried buckets and refused to leave her dressing room. So Aga and his co-stars were not able to plug their show which premieres today at 8 p.m. That's weird since we're talking about an ABS sitcom being promoted on an ABS talk show!

During the presscon for "Ang Body en Ang Guard," Aga sidetracked the issue and referred the question to ABS-CBN's Linggit Tan, who said it was all a misunderstanding. As far as his wedding plans were concerned, nothing had changed, said Aga when he sat down with a smaller group of entertainment writers. This was the other *intriga*. There had been write-ups that the Aga-Charlene wedding was quite iffy because there didn't seem

AGA/P.F4



AGA AND JOYCE. New sitcom airs today at 8 p.m.

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3. On the back of two box flaps, write or type your name, address, telephone number, if any, and affix your signature. Write or print also the name and address of store where DMC threads were bought. Or, the store owner may write his store name and address before giving the box to participant. For the participant's and store owner's protection; any erasures or corrections on the flap will disqualify the entry.
4. Enclose 24 skein bands or labels with bar code and the 2 box flaps in a WHITE LEGAL-SIZE envelop with area coverage such as Luzon/GMA, Visayas or Mindanao indicated at the back. Skein bands without the bar code and incomplete entries will be disqualified.
5. Mail entries to: "DMC Family On Wheels" c/o Focus Global Inc. Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City 1550. Or, drop entries in designated dropboxes at selected craftstores nationwide, or in the drop box located at Focus Global Inc.
6. One envelop, one entry. Send as many entries as you want. The more entries, the more chances of winning.
7. Only entries received on or before October 31, 2001 will be included in the draw.
8. Raffle Draw will be held on Nov. 15, 2001 at 4 pm at the Display Room, 2/F Focus Global Bldg., in the presence of a DTI representative.
9. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she shall get the bigger prize.
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail and will be announced in a leading national daily newspaper. Prizes may be claimed at the Focus Global Inc. office upon presentation of a valid ID. Consolation prizes of provincial winners will be sent by courier.
11. Prizes are tax-paid. Car prize is not convertible to cash. Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after notification will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.
12. Employees of Focus Global Inc. and its ad agencies, as well as their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.
13. Owners and employees of craftstores and DMC outlets, as well as their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are also disqualified from the promo. Craftstore owners only qualify as store partners where DMC products were purchased and are therefore qualified to win the store partner prizes only.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0173 Series of 2001

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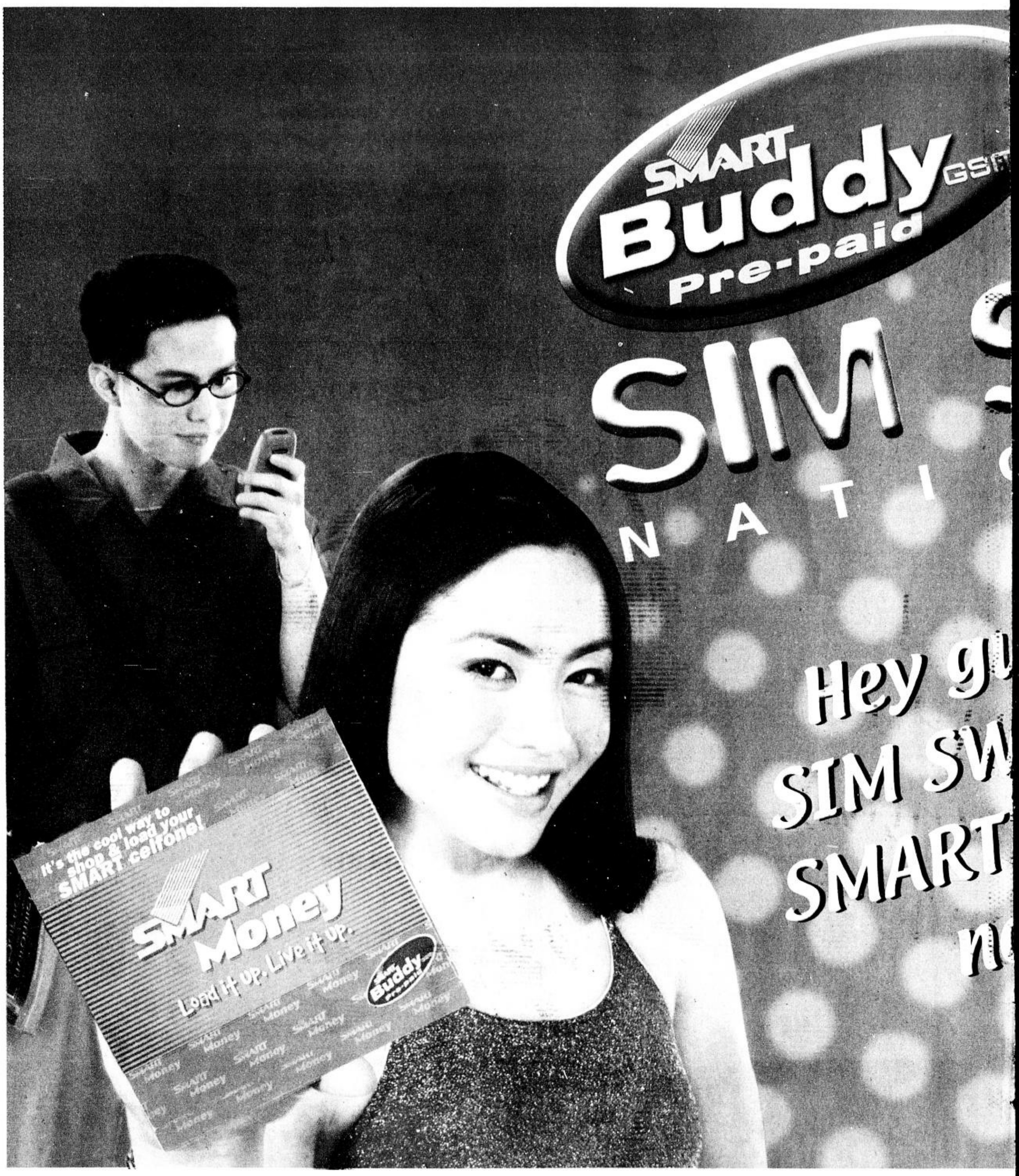

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Banos	College of Agriculture	Trade Fair	Mar. 6 to 9	Campus
sity of Batangas	Administration	Job Fair	Mar. 5 to 6	Campus

BRANCH	SCHOOL	EVENT	DURATION	VENUE
VISAYAS				
Cebu	University of San Carlos-Main Campus	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of San Carlos-Tech Center	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of the Visayas	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of Cebu	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Cebu Doctor's College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of San Jose-Recoletos	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of the Philippines-Cebu	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Velez College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Southwestern University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of Southern Philippines	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Cebu Institute of Technology	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Salazar Institute of Technology	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Silliman University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Foundation University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Saint Paul College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Central Visayas Polytechnic College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tagbilaran	Divine World College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tagbilaran	Philippine Maritime Institute	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tagbilaran	STI	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tacloban	Leyte Normal University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	Asean Development Foundation	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	AMA Computer School	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Entrance Porch
Tacloban	Sacred Heart School	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Thaddeus Canteen
Tacloban	Leyte Institute of Technology	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	UP College of Tacloban	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	St. Paul Business School of Tacloban	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Main Bldg.
Tacloban	St. Escolastica College Tacloban	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Metro Digital
Catbalogan Samar	Samar State Polytechnic College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen

Auditions for new singer-comedians slated on March 4

AT 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 4 (tomorrow), auditions will be held for singer-comedians interested in joining the cast of three musical productions to be directed this year by Nestor U. Torre.

Venue for the auditions is the Sta. Ana Arts Center at Plaza Hugo in Santa Ana, Manila. Call Michael at 713-9323 for details.

MONTAGE

Torre's past musical productions have provided showcases for outstanding actors, singers and dancers early in their careers, after which they went on to bigger things both here and abroad.

They include Cynthia Patag, Robert Seña, Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo, Giselle Sanchez, Gigi Posadas, Malu de Guzman, Ayen Munji, Jograd dela Torre, Belinda Panelo, Bobby Martino, JonJon Briones and Angelique Lazo.

They appeared in major roles in Torre's acclaimed musical shows like "Katy," "Magsimula Ka," "Magnificat," "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?" "Ang Bagong Bituin," "Awit Ni Kadugnung," "Etiquette for Mistresses" and "Anghel sa Lupa."

This time around, Torre is narrowing his search for new talents to comedians who sing, due to the specific requirements of the three musical-comedy productions he has been tapped to direct this year.

Auditionees are asked to come up with an original three-minute comic monologue that will naturally segue into a two-minute a capella song number.

A1 promo tour

The boy band A1 is coming to the Philippines for a promo tour on March 7 to 11. The group's first album, "Here We Come" has already achieved double platinum sales while their second album "The A List" is certified platinum.

On March 9, listen to them on DWLS FM, 97.1 and WRR 101.9. The group will also have a free show at the SM Megamall at 3 p.m. on the same day. On March 10, A1 guests on "Eat Bulaga" and performs live at Odyssey XL, SM North Edsa at 3 p.m. On Sunday, the band will be on GMA-7's "S.O.P."

Unusual kangaroo

While the kangaroo seems to be synonymous with Australia, what is less known is that the archetypal red kangaroo is just one of more than 45 different species, many of them looking nothing like the popular and emblematic "Sklippy." National Geographic Channel joins

A1. Promo tour on March 7 to 11.

Nick in his search for a distinctive species found only in Northern Queensland which live in trees in the program "Tree Kangaroos" on March 5 at 9 p.m.

Magical play

Start the magical trip on Star Movies with the classic Shakesperean comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" today at 5:15 p.m. with a star-studded cast featuring Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer, Rupert Everett, Calista Flockhart, Stanley Tucci and Anna Friel. The movie will be replayed on March 4 at 12 noon.

This is a fascinating story about two couples in love with the wrong partners, and how they are finally brought together.

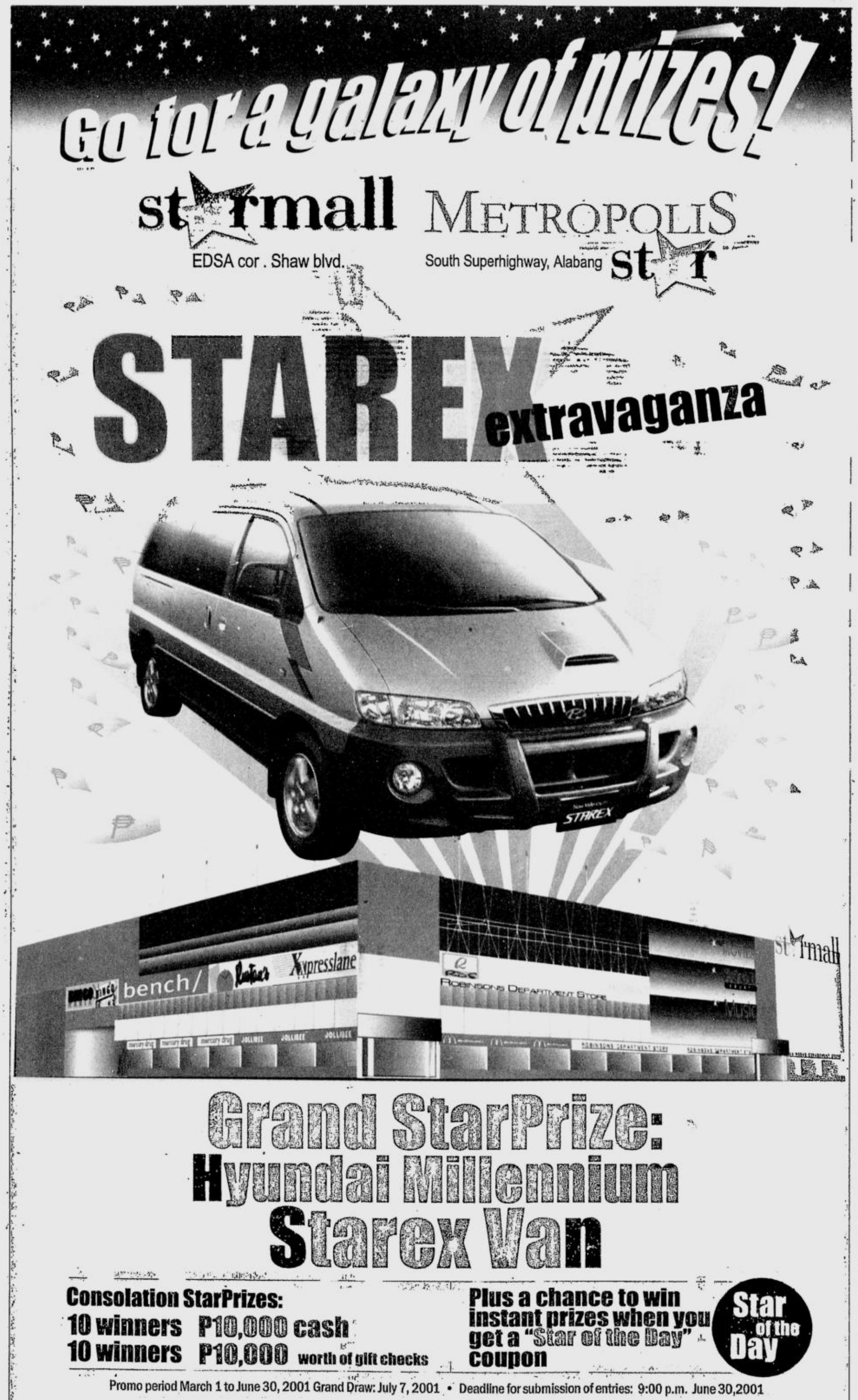
Search for beach bodies

Screening for the "Boracay Body Search 2001" is on. The competition is open to females who are least 5'4", ages 18 to 25 and males, at least 5'6", ages 18 to 30.

Screening of official candidates will be conducted via a series of elimination rounds that will be held in the finest nightspots in Metro Manila.

The finals will be held on April 28 at the Pearl of the Pacific Resort in Boracay.

Interested applicants should call 435-8290 and 929 1830 for details. Deadline for entries is March 15. 2001. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*



Aga . . . (From page F1)

to be any hype about it — and depending on whose column you read, the ceremonies were either off or postponed indefinitely!

Aga vehemently denies the reports, saying, "I just want to make it clear. I am getting married. It's still on May 28 this year at the St. Joseph Church in Pacdal, Baguio."

With the big day just three months away, not much is known about the important event. Aga explains. "Of course, we're gonna announce it. We're just waiting for the right time and the right venue because we don't want the event to turn into a circus so we've been quiet about it.

"I apologize for that. *Hindi naman namin tintago. Kahit sinong magtanong sa amin, sinasagot naman namin.* It's just unfortunate that these past few weeks, *ang daming lumalabas na ibat-ibang balita. Nakakalungkot na kahit ano lang ang binabatong balita nila. Di nila naissip na nakakasakit sila.*"

Lucky man

All throughout the interview, we noticed how giddy Aga was as he described his forthcoming wedding. More so, when he talked about Charlene and what a lucky man he was. At one point, we could almost hear violins playing in the background as he waxed romantic about his love life.

"I'm really very fortunate," he gushed. " God is so good to me. *Sa dami ng binigay niya sa akin, hanggang sa dulo, binigay niya sa akin ang pinakamaganda, pinakamabait at pinaka-mapagmahal na babae.*" The man was really smitten.

Continuing her paean to Charlene, he said, " She's my queen and *noon ko pa sinsasabi na siya ang iaangat ko sa buong mundo at ipapakita ko sa kanila.*"

So how come, they never seem to be together, asked a writer. "We're always together," he insisted. "*Wala lang kasi kami sa* show biz functions. *Kasi matagal na rin akong di gumagawa ng pelikula.*

"We also don't go to parties. Not because we don't like to but because since I asked her to marry me, *talagang nag-*settle down *na ako. Kasi natupad ko na rin ang pangarap ko.*"

When he was asked how and when he proposed to Charlene, he clammed up and said it was private.

As for their honeymoon, he said, "We haven't talked about it. Definitely, it's different because you know, we can just stay in one corner and be very happy just talking and talking. There is no pressure on us to travel abroad or anywhere for that matter because first time *kaming ikakasal.* So you don't know how it will be the day after the day after. We might want to do other things, I don't know.

"We might want to stay home first *kasi namamahay na kami.* Plus a lot her friends are from abroad, so we probably have to entertain them."

Aga has been one of the most sought-after bachelors in the industry after he broke up with Janice de Belen. What will he miss about being single? "Nothing" was his curt reply. Some people tell him that his idealistic notions about love and marriage will soon fade. However, he says, "If you marry for the right reason, you can never go wrong. It's a matter of getting your priorities straight."

Choice of projects

He admits that his status as a married man will most probably affect his choice of projects. "I'm known for being really dramatic with my leading ladies and falling in love without their knowing it on the set. *Napansin ko rin na medyo ayoko nang isagad iyon.* It's time to go back to my old love. I was doing serious films before. I miss acting a lot. I hope that our economy and the movie industry *ay maging maayos naman* eventually *para lahat massaya.*"

In the meantime, he's happy doing a sitcom with sexy star Joyce Jimenez, whom he kept kidding for her unfamiliarity with Pilipino. Joyce has lost unwanted weight and appears in fighting form, ready to take on all comers for her "Pantasya ng Bayan" crown. Unlike her movies which are dubbed, Joyce has to use her real voice in the TV show and she has difficulty speaking in Tagalog. As always, the writers have remedied that problem by making her character someone who grew up in the States. That will only take her so far because, once the novelty wears off, the viewers will start getting tired of it.

Aga explains that, unlike in "Oki, Doc," where all the funny lines were given to his co-stars, he is given more room to show off his comedic skills here. We notice in the trailer of the show that Roderick Paulate still gets most of the funny lines. We'll have to wait until the actual show airs to find out how Aga fares.

Interesting concept

The other interesting concept in the show is pairing a sexy star known for her daring and baring films with an actor who's known for his wholesome roles. Just like in "Subic Bay" which didn't quite take off, Joyce will show her assets, though we don't expect anything as revealing as her movies which are always classified For Adults. If Joyce is to shine in this sitcom, she'll have to show more than her curves.

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 21

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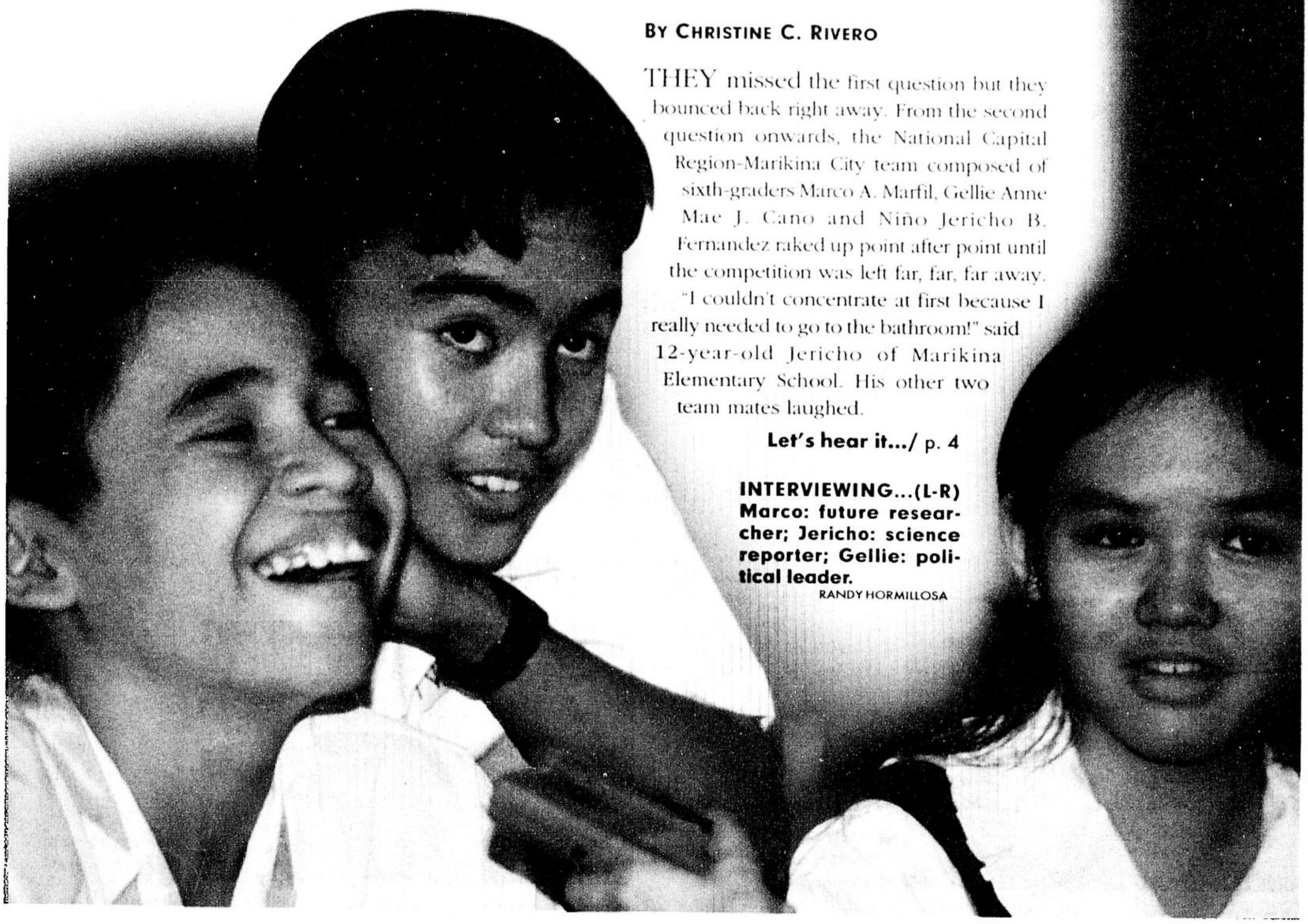
- Titanic Relics — Page 2
- Chicken Poems — Page 6
- TV Kid, Turtle Lady, & Trash Magic Grandma — Page 8

Let's hear it for Marikina!

Dream Sci-team from the valley was virtually unstoppable in the 15th Young Scientists grand finals



BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

THEY missed the first question but they bounced back right away. From the second question onwards, the National Capital Region-Marikina City team composed of sixth-graders Marco A. Marfil, Gellie Anne Mae J. Cano and Niño Jericho B. Fernandez raked up point after point until the competition was left far, far, far away.

"I couldn't concentrate at first because I really needed to go to the bathroom!" said 12-year-old Jericho of Marikina Elementary School. His other two team mates laughed.

Let's hear it.../ p. 4

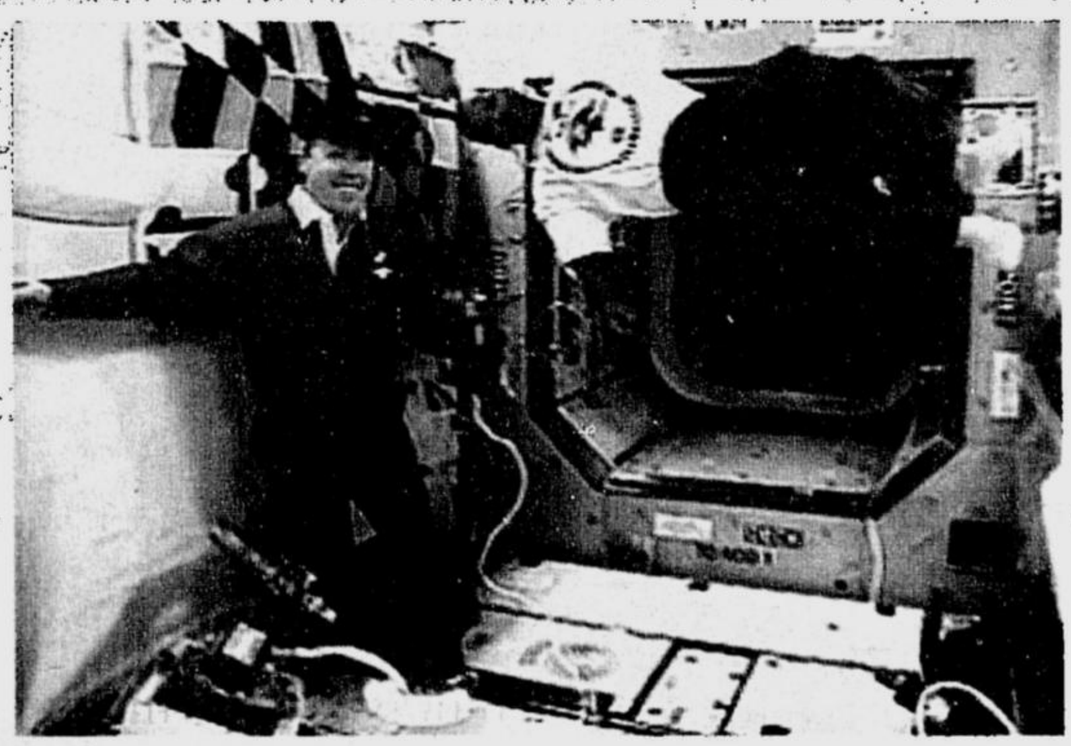
INTERVIEWING...(L-R) Marco: future researcher; Jericho: science reporter; Gellie: political leader.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

WORLD SCOPE

Good llamas!

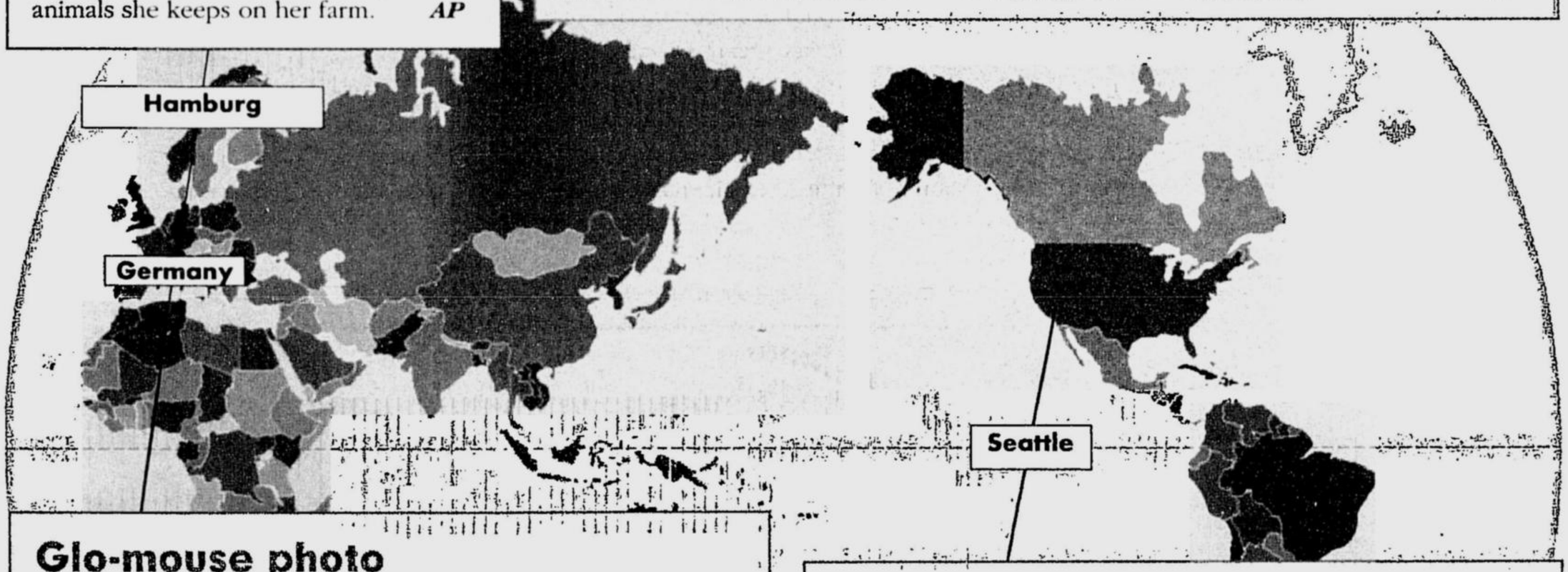
BIOLOGIST Heidi Hoesch rides a bike as she strolls with her llamas at a small German village some 160 kilometers north of Hamburg, Germany. The llamas—normally living in South America—are the biologist's favorite pets among all the animals she keeps on her farm. ***AP***



Outer Space

Hi kids!

ASTRONAUT Tom Jones, left, smiles as fellow astronaut Robert Curbeam clowns around and floats sideways in the Destiny module while a camera beams their images and voices to school children gathered at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. ***AP***

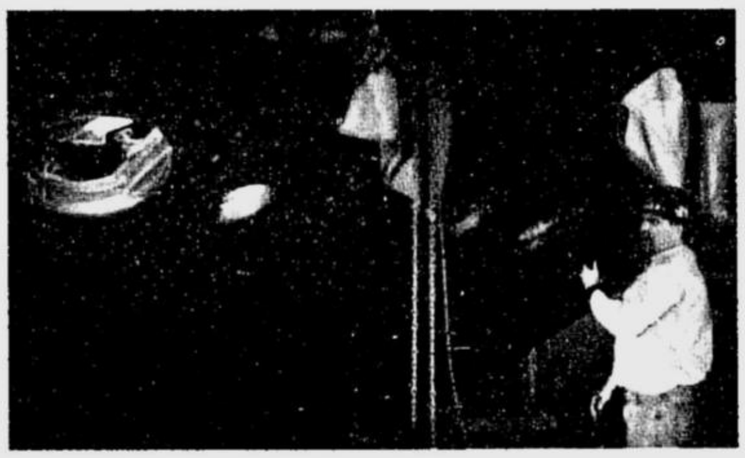


Glo-mouse photo

GERMAN photographers Oliver Meckes and Nicole Ottawa won 3rd place in the Science and Technology Singles category of the World Press Photo 2001 for this photo. It shows scientist Juergen Bachl with a glowing, genetically-manipulated mouse in 2000. Scientists inserted something in the mouse's genes to make it glow. ***AP Photo/Oliver Meckes and Nicole Ottawa***

A piece of the Titanic

A MUSEUM employee helps unload a 15-ton section of the Titanic's hull at the Pacific Science Center. This is the largest piece of the sunken vessel to be recovered from the ocean floor. The artifact will be on display starting March today and will run to May 1 at the US state's science center. ***AP***



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

AT AKLAT-LARUAN. Sign up for Aklat Laruan's summer workshop! There's one where you get to learn how to be more creative and another one where you get to learn how to draw. Call up 435-45731 or 929-1663. Aklat Laruan's office can be found at the 2nd Floor of FBR Arcade in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

HELLO YOUNG WRITERS! Wanna learn how to write better? Tower Book House is inviting young scribes to join their Saturday workshops. Call 815-6925 or 815-4638 for more details. Tower Book House is at the Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Play

ON FRIENDSHIP. Watch the young theater actors of Miriam College Child Study Center in "Ang Munting Kaibigan sa Bituin.". Little munchkins...er ...nursery and kindergarten students will perform the original play written by select teachers of Miriam CSC. Catch the last few shows on March 5-9. For more information, call 435-9240 local 324.

Exhibit

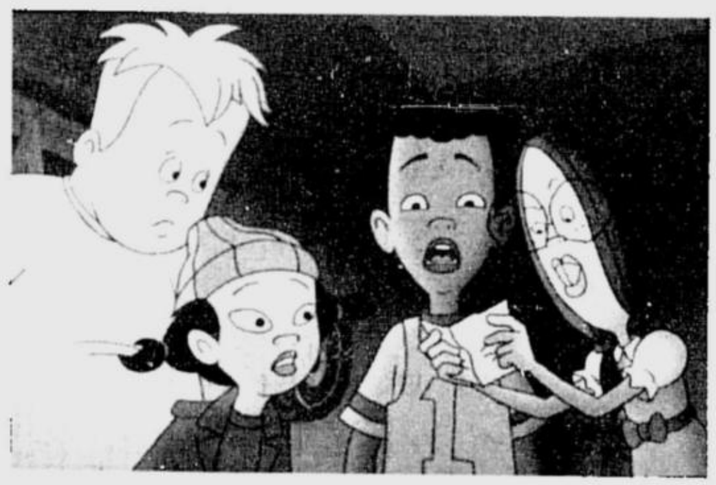
ASIAN CARTOONISTS. Do you like looking through editorial cartoons in newspapers? If you do, you should go look at "Asia in the 1990s in Cartoons," a collection of 90 funny and satirical cartoons by cartoonists from all over Asia. The exhibit runs from March 7 to April 15 at the Shaw Side Lobby at the Ground Floor of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City. Questions? Call 811-6155. Hey, admission is free!

Cable Pick

A FROZEN & ...RY FIND. Remember the news about the discovery of a mammoth in polar ice last year? Discovery Channel filmed it's excavation and the result is an exciting documentary called "Land of the Mammoth." What had happened to Jarkov Mammoth after the scientists began to thaw its tomb of frozen mud? Find out on March 11 at 8 p.m. on the Discovery Channel. This might be a good topic for discussion in Science or Social Studies class.

New Movie

ONE WEIRD SUMMER. For the kids of Third S... School, there's only one thing better than recess, and that's summer vacation. T.J. ...weiler is ready for vacation, but all of his friends are away on summer camp. Desperately bored, T.J. looks for things to do. One day, while riding past school, he notices an eerie green light emanating from the main building. Thus starts an adventure that causes the school principal to be "dematerialized" when he tries to unlock the school gate and draws T.J.'s friends away from summer camp. "Recess: School's Out" will be shown in Metro Manila theaters starting Mar. 14.



YOUNG SLEUTHS. Gretchen (right) compares notes with Mikey (left), Spinelli (center left) and Vince (center right) as they prepare to spring into action in Walt Disney Pictures' "Recess: School's Out"

Wanna be a JI correspondent?

WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!
The Junior Inquirer
Philippine Daily Inquirer
P.O. Box 2353
Makati Central Post Office
1263 Makati City

Let's hear it . . . (from page 1)

"We kept discussing the answers," said Gellie from St. Scholastica's Academy, "we would debate over which answer would be better and we'd listen to each others reasons."

Of course, most of that took place in under ten seconds, prompting the host to comment, "NCR is the group with the most spirited discussions." He even mimicked what he heard from them, a high-speed version of "*Hindihindihindiyan!Wagyanwagyanwagyan!*"

The team did best in the really tough practicum portions where they had to perform minor experiments onstage. Most of the other teams barely squeaked through with a point but NCR almost always scored perfectly.

Team leader Marco from Parang Elementary School chalks it all up to paying full attention during their reviews. "(The concepts) were in everything we studied," he pointed out.

All three kids only met after they topped the division level and had little more than three months to learn how to work with each other. Working as a team didn't seem to be a problem, they all agree, because they respected each other's ideas.

His idea's hot!hot!hot!

In the individual category, 12-year-old Raphael J. Santos of The Peninsula School in Bataan (Region III) was in the lead early on. When all was tallied, he not only topped the quiz show but his investigatory project also garnered the highest marks in the whole competition.

"(My project) is about a tree with a sap that's flammable," Raphael explained. He said he once heard his science teacher talk about a certain Dulit Tree whose sap easily caught fire.

Raphael decided to try an experiment to see if the sap could be made more useful. "I concluded that the sap can be used as a renewable energy source," he said.

The Sci-Art competition grand winners were also awarded during the quiz show. They are Kim Diaz of Antonio Regidor Elementary School in Manila, Larla Mae Lapeña of the Special Education Center in Baguio City and John Aurelio Arandilla II from Talisay Elementary School in Negros Occidental.

BRIGHT FUTURES await the members of this Dream Team.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

Happy Baske'Birthday, Coach!!!

Mini PAYA Basketball Championship is Lourdes School of QC's b-day gift to coach

"WHAT we did today is for Sir Jojo," says 13-year-old Guillen Valero, a member of the Lourdes School of Quezon City Grade School Basketball Team.

Basketball coach Jojo Imutan was going to celebrate his birthday two days after the Mini-PAYA (Philippine Athletic Youth Association) Basketball Championships held last Feb. 17 at Xavier School. This made his team work extra hard to repel the cagers from Claret School. Both teams were evenly matched and the game was super-charged to the very end. With less than fifteen minutes left to the second half, the score was pegged at 33-33. Claret's sharpshooter, Michael Lamar plunked in a number of three-pointers but Guillen and his LSQC teammates, Franz Musñgi, Kim Gozun, Mikael Guanlao and Martin Montemayor scored

crucial points of their own, securing for their school a sure victory. Franz was especially memorable because he had to limp out of the court with less than five minutes left to the game due to a strained ankle. A couple minutes later, though, he was back, determined to help his team win.

As soon as the results were announced, the Lourdes boys rowdily piled on top of each other right in the middle of the court. "The game must have really meant a lot to them," says a visibly touched Coach Jojo, "They all played very well. I'm really proud of them."

Coach Jojo also says that the last time LSQC won the Mini-PAYA basketball championship was three years ago so the team has even more reason to celebrate.

Earlier in the day, Xavier School didn't easily give up the third place slot to the Ateneo Blue Eaglets. Neck-and-neck throughout most of the game, Ateneo finally triumphed with a score of 44-41.

My Friend, the Cat Woman

BY KATHLEEN B. MACROHON
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL, QUEZON CITY

IT was Thursday, April 20, 2000, 12:32 p.m., lunch time at Miriam College Grade School, when my classmate, Romina A. announced to the whole class that we were going to have slumber party on the coming Sunday at her house. Everyone was going to come . except one of my classmates, Cathy S. Everyone wanted her to come but she just said no.

Good thing she changed her mind. When Saturday came, the whole class was there.

First, we watched "Batman and Robin" since Romina's little brother was there. Then we acted out our own version of a Batman play. Everyone got to pick her own character from the cast. I chose Batwoman, Romina chose Poison Ivy. Cathy chose Catwoman. After that, we played animal charades. Funny, Cathy chose to imitate a cat. She was very good at it too.

Just before bedtime, we were asked to drink milk. Most of us hated milk, but Cathy loved milk. After drinking milk, we all went to bed. I thought Cathy was acting kind of strange...like a cat!

I said to myself: "What a coincidence! Cathy couldn't be a cat! Maybe she just loves cats." I tried to sleep but I couldn't. The cat-thing was driving me crazy. So I stood up and went to the other room to ask Cathy if she was really a cat. When I got there, she was gone!

I went downstairs to look for her. I saw a black cat with green blue eyes staring at me from outside a window.. I got scared and ran back upstairs to our room. After five minutes, I fell asleep.

Suddenly, I heard a loud alarm. I woke up and looked at the time. It was already 7 a.m.

I was going to be late for school! I quickly ate my breakfast, brushed my teeth and went to school. (I didn't notice that I was already at our house.)

When lunchtime came, I saw Cathy eating fish and drinking milk for lunch. I approached her and asked her if she was a cat.

"A cat? Whoever gave you that idea? she said.

"The crazy things you were doing yesterday at the slumber party," I answered.

"Slumber party? WE didn't have a slumber party yesterday," she said.

Maybe it was just a dream, I said to myself.

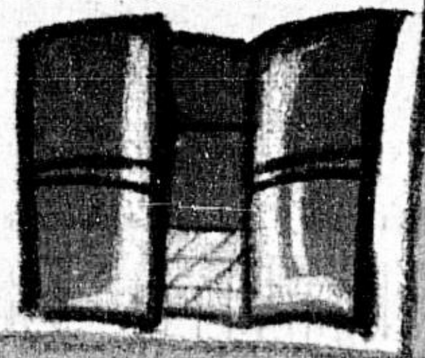
Back in the classroom, Romina A. announced to the whole class that we would have a slumber party.

"A real one this time," I said to myself.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

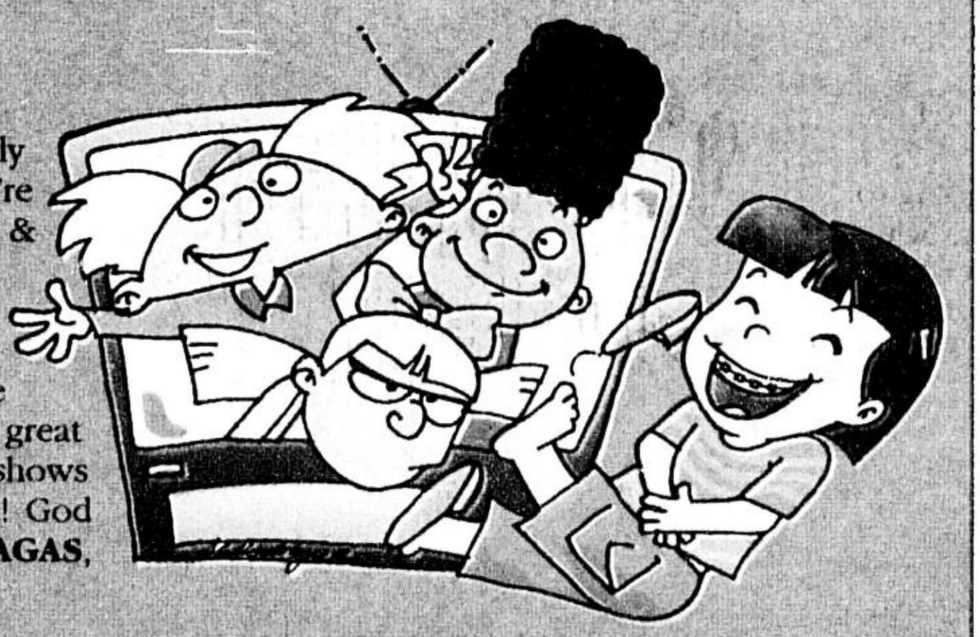
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Cool Nickelodeon shows

DEAR Editor,

Hello there! Please feature some really cool Nickelodeon shows. I think they're really great! The best ones are "Kenan & Kel," "All That," "Figure it Out," "Double Dare 2000," "Cousin Skeeter" and "Hey Arnold!" Pay close attention to "Kenan & Kel" and "All That." These shows have received lots of awards. I think it's a great idea for kids to get to know which TV shows are the best ones to watch. That's all! God bless and more power!—**KIM BUWAGAS**, Malate, Manila



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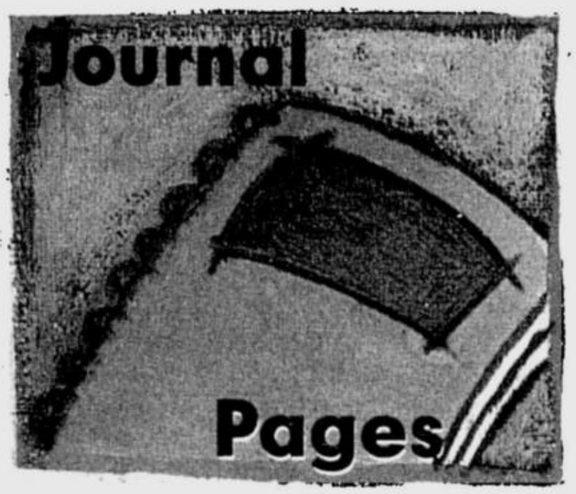
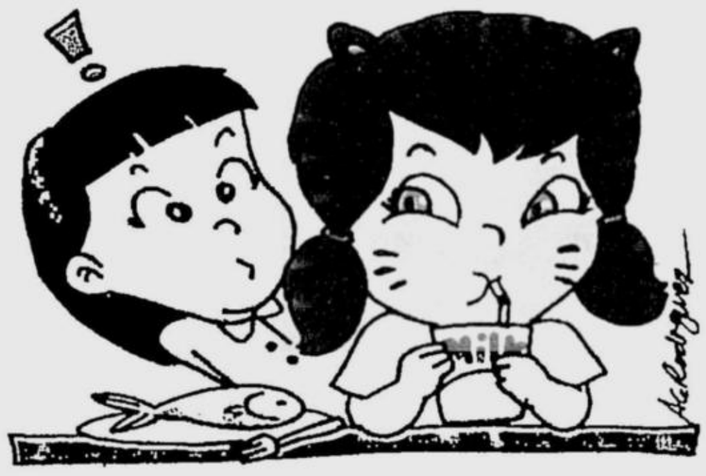


My Friend, the Cat Woman

BY KATHLEEN B. MACROHON
MIRIAM COLLEGE GRADE SCHOOL, QUEZON CITY



IT was Thursday, April 20, 2000, 12:32 p.m., lunch time at Miriam College Grade School, when my classmate, Romina A. announced to the whole class that we were going to have slumber party on the coming Sunday at her house. Everyone was going to come . except one of my classmates, Cathy S. Everyone wanted her to come but she just said no.

Good thing she changed her mind. When Saturday came, the whole class was there.

First, we watched "Batman and Robin" since Romina's little brother was there. Then we acted out our own version of a Batman play. Everyone got to pick her own character from the cast. I chose Batwoman, Romina chose Poison Ivy. Cathy chose Catwoman. After that, we played animal charades. Funny, Cathy chose to imitate a cat. She was very good at it too.

Just before bedtime, we were asked to drink milk. Most of us hated milk, but Cathy loved milk. After drinking milk, we all went to bed. I thought Cathy was acting kind of strange...like a cat!

I said to myself: "What a coincidence! Cathy couldn't be a cat! Maybe she just loves cats." I tried to sleep but I couldn't. The cat-thing was driving me crazy. So I stood up and went to the other room to ask Cathy if she was really a cat. When I got there, she was gone!

I went downstairs to look for her. I saw a black cat with green blue eyes staring at me from outside a window.. I got scared and ran back upstairs to our room. After five minutes, I fell asleep.

Suddenly, I heard a loud alarm. I woke up and looked at the time. It was already 7 a.m.

I was going to be late for school! I quickly ate my breakfast, brushed my teeth and went to school. (I didn't notice that I was already at our house.)

When lunchtime came, I saw Cathy eating fish and drinking milk for lunch. I approached her and asked her if she was a cat.

"A cat? Whoever gave you that idea? she said.

"The crazy things you were doing yesterday at the slumber party," I answered.

"Slumber party? WE didn't have a slumber party yesterday," she said.

Maybe it was just a dream, I said to myself.

Back in the classroom, Romina A. announced to the whole class that we would have a slumber party.

"A real one this time," I said to myself.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

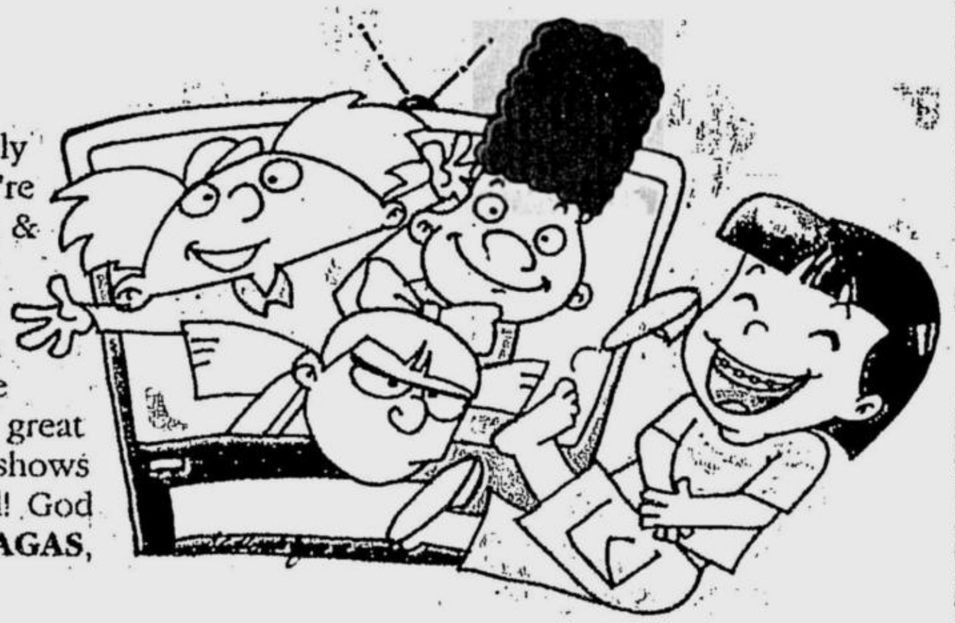
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Cool Nickelodeon shows

DEAR Editor,

Hello there! Please feature some really cool Nickelodeon shows. I think they're really great! The best ones are "Kenan & Kel," "All That," "Figure it Out," "Double Dare 2000," "Cousin Skeeter" and "Hey Arnold!" Pay close attention to "Kenan & Kel" and "All That." These shows have received lots of awards. I think it's a great idea for kids to get to know which TV shows are the best ones to watch. That's all! God bless and more power!—**KIM BUWAGAS**, Malate, Manila



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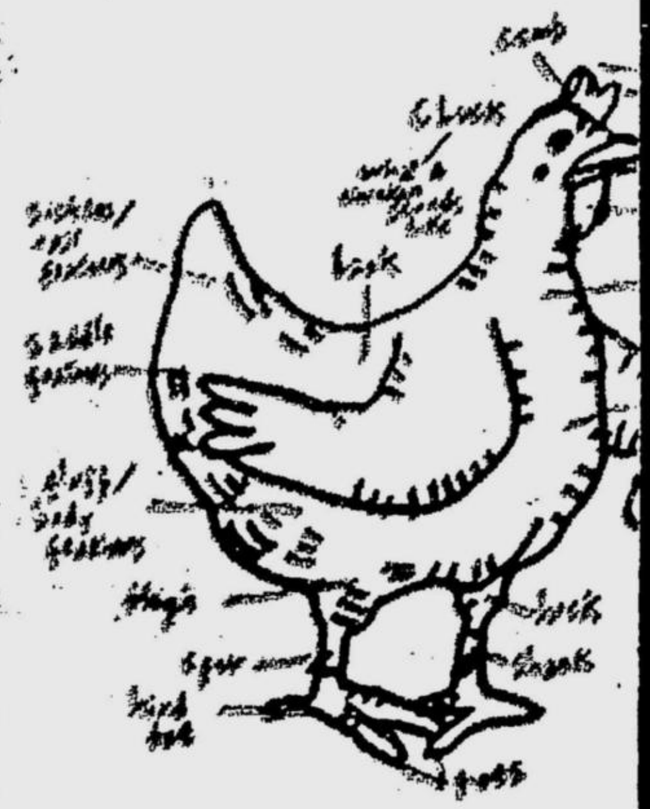
CHICKEN POEMS

by Kris Lanot Lacaba ; Chickens, Chimp, Cheetah and others by Jason Moss

POEMS BY KRIS LANOT LACABA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JASON MOSS



THE FUNKY CHICKEN

I'm a funky, funky chicken
I can dance the boogaloo
I'm a funky, funky chicken
I can do it, so can you

I've been dancing since I hatched
I've been dancing as a chick
Like a fever that I catch
I can learn a dance step quick

I can boogie, I can cha-cha
I can do the tinikling
If you need a dancing partna
Give my telephone a ring

Deck yourself in dancing fashion
Get your shoes and get your dress
I'm a funky, funky chicken
Will I dance with you? Why, yes!

THE CHICK

No other friend could be s
Greets with a cluck and never
It's not a creature without a
When facing sideways, it reall
Go on and say what you h
Though without ears, it liste
From when you wake until y
It will agree with you with
feathered head

FOR or By KIDS

"COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE"

There was a chicken, quite funny-looking
It had no feathers, Whoa! It was cooking
In boiling water it flapped its wings
It said, "The water's fine, but how it stings"

THE CHICKEN WITH ATTITUDE

Yo, I'm a chicken with attitude
You can tell that I'm cool in a jif
When I strut you should give me some latitude
I'm the grooviest dude on this planetude

Yo, I'm a chicken with attitude
Though you might say that I'm stiff
While I think that such comment is platitude
My chicken legs often do crampitude

***Kris** recently facilitated a writing workshop for children at the Young Minds bookstore at Shangri La in Mandaluyong. He lives in Quezon City where his grandmother used to raise pigs and chickens.*
***Jason** is a freelance artist.*

The TV Kid, the Turtle Lady & the Trash Magic Grandma

Five & Up's Kai de Veyra is part of one very interesting family

NORMAL life for a fourteen-year-old sounds a little something like this: "I like hanging out with my friends. At home, I just stay in my room. Sometimes I listen to the radio. Sometimes I watch TV. When I have a test, I grab my books and read."

That's how Katherine Eloise—or Kai—de Veyra describes her life. Though every now and then, she admits, life can become quite extraordinary.

"We went to Cagayan for some white-water kayaking," says Kai, describing one of her favorite adventures as one of the hosts of "5 & Up."

She's also reported on the flower festival in Baguio, a big belly-busting fiesta in Batangas and, recently, she was at EDSA II reporting history with other 5 & Up kids.

Do people at school treat her like a star? "Oh no," Kai replies with a shudder. In fact, she says, her teachers at U.P. Integrated School sometimes expect more of her. Grinning, she relates, "When I have to do a report my teacher sometimes says, 'O, that has to be just like 5 & Up, okay?'"

That's why she doesn't let her TV-hosting get in the way of her studies.

"When I have to skip school, as much as possible, I don't accept the shoot," she says. If she really has to, though, she lugs around her books with her.

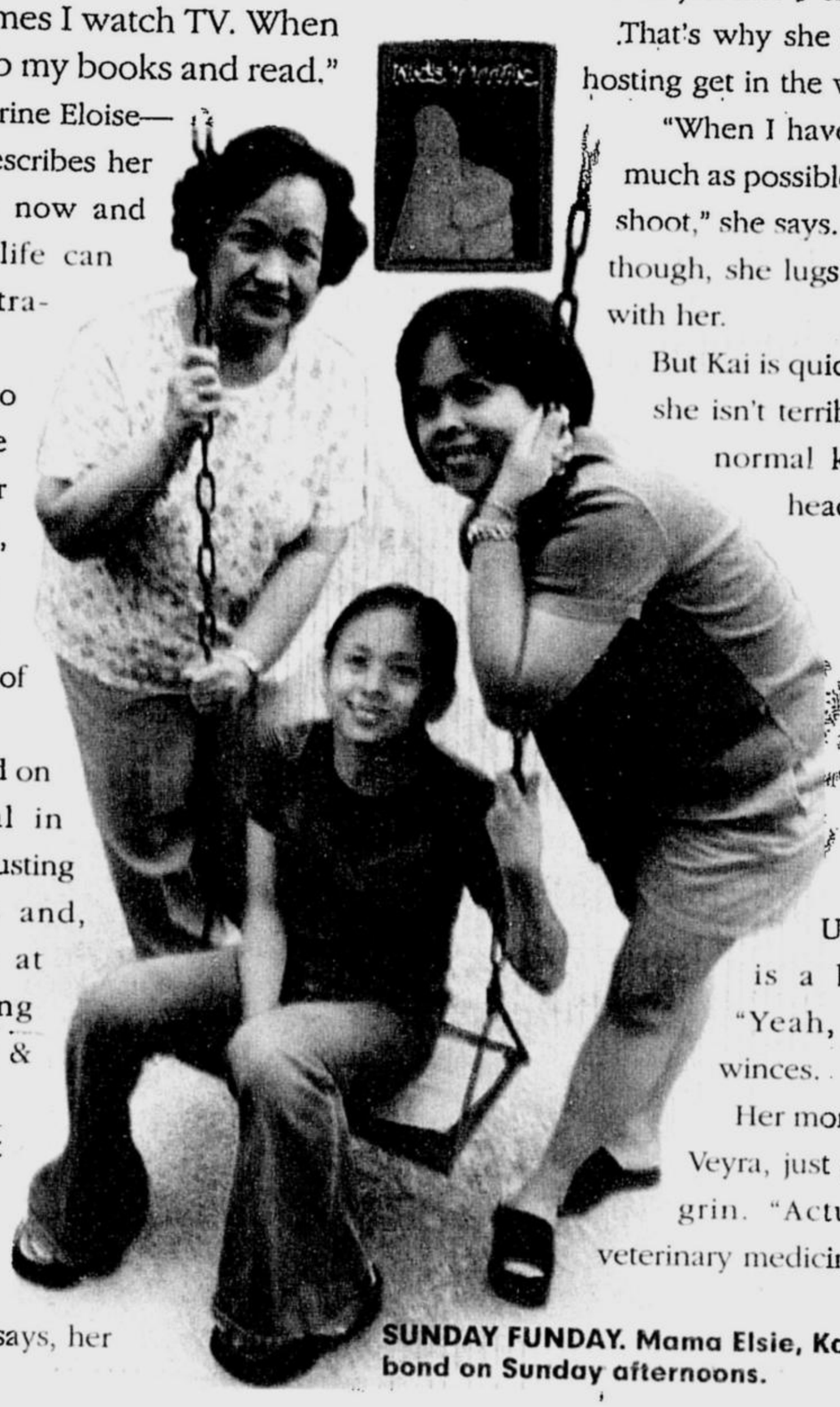
But Kai is quick to point out that she isn't terribly studious. Just a normal kid? Kai nods her head, "Very much."

Going turtle!

On what she wants to do in the future, Kai declares, "Anything that would NOT involve biology!" Um, but your mom is a biologist, Kai... "Yeah, I know," she winces.

Her mom, Dr. Rhodora de Veyra, just gives her a funny grin. "Actually I took up veterinary medicine," she says.

The TV Kid/ p.9



SUNDAY FUNDAY. Mama Elsie, Kai & Doc Rhoda bond on Sunday afternoons.

R RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____, _____

Sender's Address:

_____

Sender's Contact No.

_____

The TV Kid . . .

(from page 8)

After her studies, Doc Rhoda found a job at the Marine Turtle Conservation Program of the DENR.

"I thought maybe I'd stay on for only a year because it was my first time to study turtles," she says, "but I got so interested in it, I ended up working for the Program for 14 years."

As part of her job, Doc Rhoda had to visit the Turtle Islands every year. This is a group of islands near Sabah, Borneo in Indonesia where thousands of turtles come to lay their eggs.

"We would tag the turtles, we did research...we tracked the turtles via satellite," she says.

Doc Rhoda also spent a lot of time convincing turtle-hunters that what they were doing was wrong.

"A lot of Filipinos don't know that the turtle has been around for 200 million years. It is a link to our past," she says. She adds that turtles are also play a big role in keeping the sea healthy.

Right now she has her hands full as the head of the Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City's Parks and Wildlife. It's tough looking after such a big place, Doc Rhoda says, but, "I get to see the animals everyday!"

Mama Elsie says, "REFUSE–F=RE-USE"

Kai and Doc Rhoda suddenly bring in a big fat shopping bag. They give the bag to a lady they call Mama Elsie. She is Kai's grandmother.

"Look," Mama Elsie says happily, showing us what looks like fine strips of foil in the bag, "I'm going to use this as pillow stuffing." Mama Elsie takes all kinds of throw-away hodgepodge like straws, candy wrappers, and old magazines to turn

The TV Kid . . . / p.11

WHATTA FAMILY! The De Veyras have each done a lot of really amazing things. Photos by DENNIS SABANGAN

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) _____;
2) _____;
3) _____;
4) _____;
and
5) _____

My nominee lives at _____
_____
Give him/her a call at _____
_____ or send him/her an e-mail at _____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
_____
You may call me at
_____.

Make It Metric

MOST of the world has fully gone metric and so should we. You won't be comfortable with it at first, but in the long run you'll realize that the metric system is easier to use because it's based on multiples of 10.

In each number, match the English or US unit with its metric equivalent by ticking off the correct box. As a bonus test (but no scoring), reverse the equation and tell the metric unit's equivalent in the English or US measurement system. So how tall and heavy are you metric-wise? That should be a breeze after you complete this quiz.

1.) 1 inch =

- 2.54 centimeters
- 25.4 centimeters
- 254 centimeters

Bonus: 1 centimeter = ____ inch

2.) 1 foot =

- 0.305 meter
- 3.050 meters
- 30.50 meters

Bonus: 1 meter = ____ feet

3.) 1 mile=

- 0.1609 kilometer
- 1.6090 kilometers
- 16.090 kilometers

Bonus: 1 kilometern = ____ mile

4.) 1 quart =

- 0.946 liter
- 9.460 liters
- 94.60 liters

Bonus: 1 liter = ____ quarts

5.) 1 gallon =

- 3.785 liters
- 37.85 liters
- 378.5 liters

Bonus: 1 liter = ____ gallon

6.) 1 ounce =

- 2.835 grams
- 28.35 grams
- 283.5 grams

Bonus: 1 gram = ____ ounce

7.) 1 pound =

- 0.454 kilogram
- 4.540 kilograms
- 45.40 kilograms

Bonus: 1 kilogram = ____ pounds

8.) 1 ton=

- 0.907 metric ton
- 9.070 metric tons
- 90.70 metric tons

Bonus: 1 metric ton = ____ tons

9.) 1 square inch =

- 0,6452 square centimeter
- 6.4520 square centimeters
- 64.520 square centimeters

Bonus: 1 square centimeter = ____ square inch

10.) 1 square foot =

- 0.093 square meter
- 0.930 square meters
- 9.300 square meters

Bonus: 1 square meter = ____ square feet

11.) 1 square mile =

- 0.259 square kilometer
- 2.590 square kilometers
- 25.90 square kilometers

Bonus: 1 square kilometer = ____ square mile

12.) 1 cubic foot =

- 0.028 cubic meter
- 0.280 cubic meter
- 2.800 cubic meters

Bonus: 1 cubic meter = ____ cubic feet

Answers

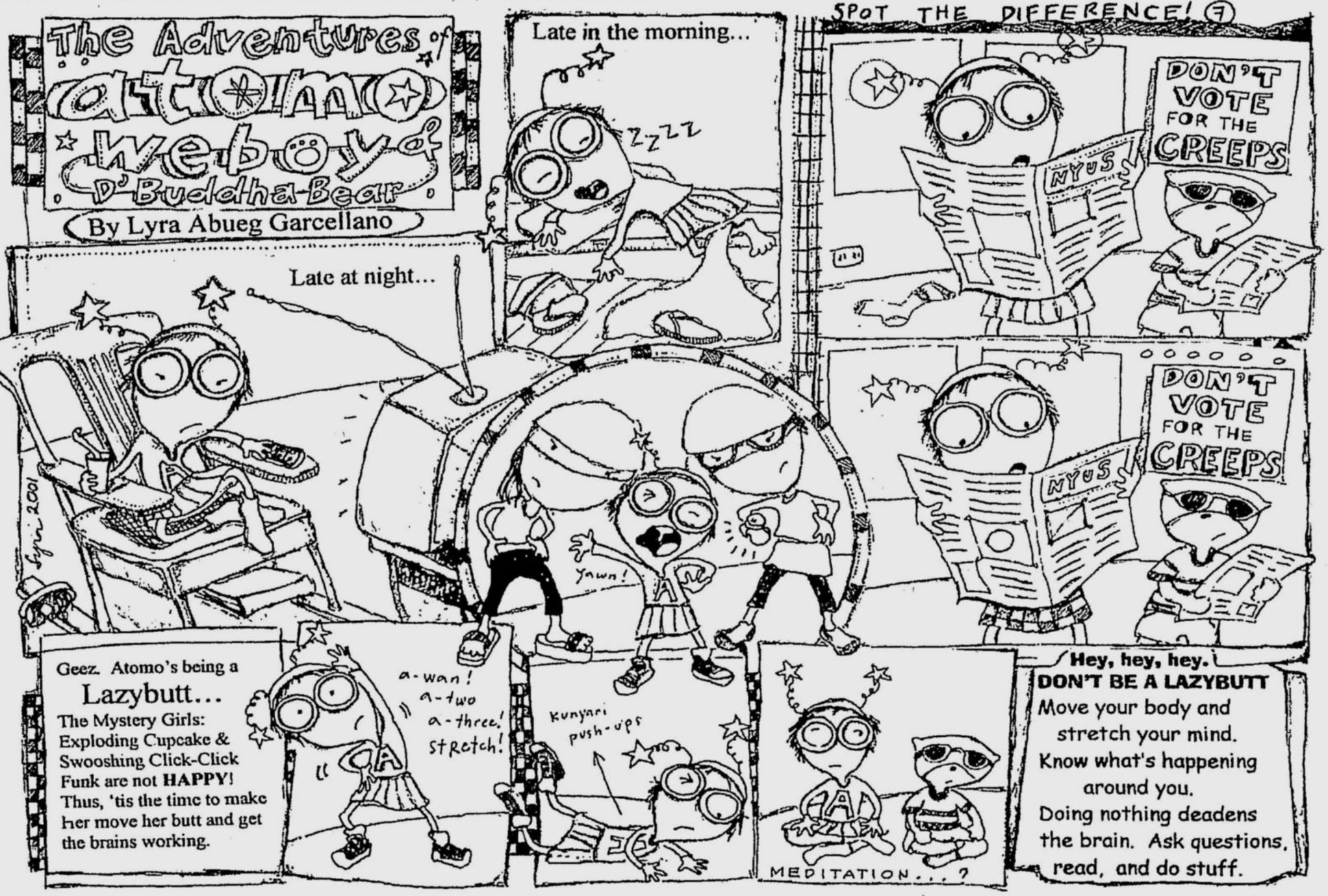
1.) 2.54 centimeters (*Bonus*: 0.3937 inch)
2.) 0.305 meter (3.28 feet)
3.) 1.609 kilometers (0.621 mile)
4.) 0.946 liter (1.0567 quarts)
5.) 3.785 liters (0.264 gallon)
6.) 28.35 grams (0.035 ounce)
7.) 0.454 kilogram (2.205 pounds)
8.) 0.907 metric ton (1.102 tons)
9.) 6.452 sq. cm. (0.155 sq. in.)
10.) 0.093 sq. m. (10.764 sq. ft.)
11.) 2.59 sq. km. (0.386 sq. mi.)
12.) 0.028 cu. m. (35.315 cu. ft.)

Ratings

superbrain!
18 - 20

excellent!
14 - 17

good!
8 - 13



The TV Kid . . . (from page 9)

them into fancy hats, ornaments, and, yes, pillow stuffing.

You see, for 66-year-old Mama Elsie Brandes-de Veyra, nothing should ever go to waste.

In the early 1970s, she explains, "we started seeing garbage all around and nobody seemed to care."

Mama Elsie was a nurse back then and together with a friend, who was also a nurse, they decided to do something about the growing stinky mess. "We started the Recycling Movement of the Philippines," she says.

Today, they go around the country giving lectures on how to actually have zero-waste. People don't always believe them at first, though.

"During our lectures, most of the time you will find people who will not accept this project. They think, 'It's just garbage, why do we have to talk about it?'"

"We have to change their attitude," says Mama Elsie, "We tell them, 'If you are not around, there will be no garbage. Garbage is part of ourselves...our Lord gave this planet to us so clean, can't we keep it clean?'"

From Kai to Doc Rhoda to Mama Elsie, that's three generations of cool and 'rific people in one amazing family.

Christine C. Rivero

Shirley's Pets PROUDLY PRESENTS

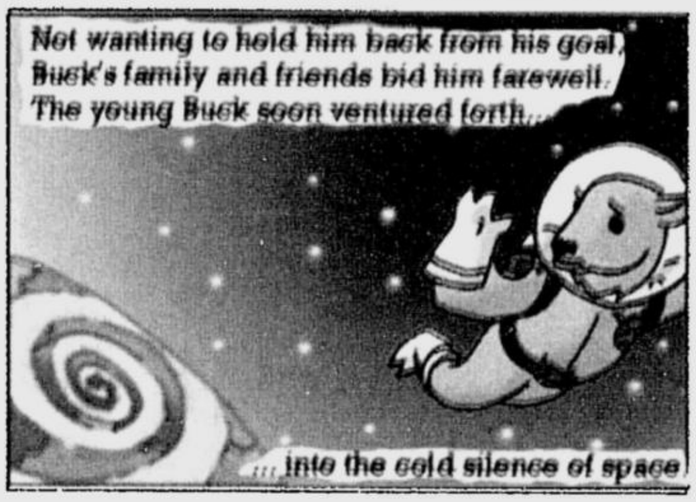
The Singular and Fantastic Adventure of SOLAR BUCK

BY ROBERT MAGNUSON

While browsing through a Carl Sagan book, young Buck learned that the nearest star from our solar system was 25 trillion miles away.

It was then that Buck realized his dream.

Not wanting to hold him back from his goal, Buck's family and friends bid him farewell. The young Buck soon ventured forth...



...into the cold silence of space

Along his journey, Solar Buck befriended many lifeforms and thwarted numerous space pirates and criminals.

Copyright © 2001 Robert Gunnar Magnuson

It would be many years later, when Buck's antlers had grown regal and his face worn with old age, that he would finally reach his dream.

Alpha Centuri.

OH YEAH? WHERE'D HE GET A CARL SAGAN BOOK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST?!

Visit Shirley and her pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

Country sealed to prevent Estrada flight

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

MARCH 4, 2001 ★ 82 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 86

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- NPA owns ambush of engineers — ACROSS / A15
- Calls for Mori to quit mount — WORLD / A11
- 395 poll 'hot spots' listed — NEWS / A4

TODAY IN THE INQUIRER MAGAZINE

- Pagbabago @Pilipinas bats for political change
- Hardcourt hero Topex Robinson

Erap: It's not my diary

REALITY check is in order for about a hundred Estrada supporters who march to the Supreme Court on Saturday to protest its ruling on the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Saguisag says fight goes on, plans motion for reconsideration

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

"ACCURATE or not, the diary was not admissible in court. It's his diary, not mine," deposed President Estrada said referring to the account of then Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara of the "final days" of the Estrada administration.

The Supreme Court had quoted liberally from the Angara diary when it ruled that Ms Macapagal is the legitimate President.

The INQUIRER published portions of the diary in its issues of Feb. 4, 5 and 6, 2001.

Of 135 footnotes in the tribunal's resolution, 40 (30 percent) were taken from the INQUIRER; 12 (9 percent) from the Philippine Star; 2 (one percent) from the Manila Bulletin; and 1 (.7 percent) from the Manila Standard.

It's still never say die for Estrada, who, according to his lawyer Rene Saguisag, will file a motion asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its 13-0 decision declaring Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the legitimate President.

"To help ensure that in the future, the right thing is done in the right way at the right time and for the right reason, *tuloy ang laban* (the fight goes

ERAP/ A20

DENNIS SABANGAN

Palace: Full speed ahead for recovery

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND DORIS C. DUMLAO

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday hailed the Supreme Court decision striking down Joseph Estrada's claim to the presidency, saying the ruling would put the economy firmly back on the road to recovery.

Other Palace officials also said the decision upholding Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of the presidency would usher in a period of healing between her supporters and those of Estrada.

"This will be good for the economy—for the impressions of our friends and investors abroad and ultimately, for the livelihood of our people," Romulo said.

"It's now full speed ahead for economic recovery," he added.

Economic growth slowed during Estrada's 30 months in office due to allegations of poor governance, cronyism and corruption.

Romulo said the court decision removed any uncertainty over Ms Macapagal's takeover on Jan. 20 when the military-backed Edsa People Power II toppled the scandal-tainted Estrada from power.

PALACE/ A19

What happens when Joker rides a jeep

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

"IT WAS both crazy and funny. People see I'm inside and say, '*Ay, si* Joker! Some called me Idol or Mr. Impeachment. Wow! I was the object of everyone's attention. I enjoyed it, really."

So did Joker Arroyo chuckle as he recalled his

WHAT/ A19

Gloria urges people: Seize the moment

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

"GRATEFUL" for the unanimous verdict of the Supreme Court upholding her presidency, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday exhorted Filipinos to unite, "seize the moment" and "hit the ground running."

Across the country, the 13-0 ruling declaring Ms Macapagal the legitimate President drew praise from various sectors, including at least one senatorial ally of her deposed predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

Estrada supporter and Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople summed up the mood of the nation. "I imagine that everyone in the country felt a great sense of relief," the opposition senator said in a statement.

"We were in a crucial juncture on the legitimacy issue. Now that the court has ruled, the atmosphere of a constitutional crisis has dissipated," he said.

At the same time, administration legislators and militant groups vigorously urged the Ombudsman

GLORIA/ A20

DENNIS SABANGAN

AS GOOD as it gets for President Macapagal on Friday evening during the tribute for the prosecution witnesses from Equitable PCI Bank.

VIEW FROM THE STREETS

No group could have done it alone–all or nothing

BY TEDDY A. CASIÑO

Editor's note: The author is the secretary general of the left-wing alliance Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

(Second of three parts)

IF THERE was anything that we believed in aside from the need to remove Joseph Estrada, it was the reality that no one could do it alone.

No organization, political bloc or institution could claim to have a monopoly on strategy and tactics, or the necessary influence as well as resources to oust him. It was a case of all or nothing.

And so, as early as August 1999, we in Bayan resolved to reach out once again to our longtime ideological and political rivals: the social democrats.

Those in activist circles know of the longstanding struggle between the "socdems" and the "natdems (national democrats)," which stretches as far back as the First Quarter Storm of 1970.

The last time that there was any formal coordination or joint actions between the NDs and SDs was in the mid-90s, before the break-up of the ND bloc into the "reaffirmists" and the "rejectionists," where the SDs chose to ally themselves with those who had bolted from Bayan.

When the SDs formed Kompil II in October last year, we decided to keep out. We felt it was unnecessary to place ourselves under the Kompil II umbrella as this would have led to organizational entanglements and tactical debates, which we all could do without.

NO/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

Country sealed vs Erap flight

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND TJ BURGONIO

AUTHORITIES have been put on alert to ensure ousted President Joseph Estrada does not flee abroad after the Supreme Court said he had no immunity from criminal suit, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said he has ordered a tight watch at all airports and sea ports, including private ports, because Estrada may have no choice but to flee after the high court ruled that he had lost his presidential immunity.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport officials said they were on "double alert" to prevent the escape of Estrada and his cronies. Four other international airports and shipping ports have also heightened alert levels.

Interviewed over radio dzRH, Perez said he gave the orders to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco on Friday night as soon as he got wind of the Supreme Court ruling upholding the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

The justices also voted 9-4 that Estrada is deemed to have lost immunity from suit.

Perez said the possibility of Estrada's escaping was not far-fetched, considering the ousted president's recent pronouncements that "blood would spill" should anybody try to arrest him and take him to jail.

"If I were Estrada's lawyer, I would advise him to flee because I am well aware of the evidence against him. It is really strong," he said.

"It would be very hard for him (Estrada) to squeeze out of this tight fix," he said.

Perez said the government views with suspicion Estrada's decision to help campaign for the opposition senatorial candidates in Mindanao, considering that Mindanao is closer to other Asian countries than it is to Manila.

"I suspect that although he may not flee to Malaysia because (Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad) is sore at him, he may opt to go to Brunei," Perez said.

He warned all operators of private planes not to allow themselves to be used for Estrada's plans to escape justice.

"We are watching the companies that are offering him charter plane services. We told them that if the former President uses their planes to escape, we will impound their planes upon their return," he said.

"The government will go after them for going over the border without our say-so," he said.

The justice secretary said that once the Office of the Ombudsman files the cases against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan, the anti-graft court would determine whether a warrant of arrest should be issued against Estrada.

"I believe that since we have already gone through the preliminary investigation, a warrant of arrest should already be issued," he said.

Naia general manager Edgardo Manda ordered the deployment of additional members of the Aviation Security Group and the Airport Police Department inside the passenger terminals 1 and 2 to prevent the departure of Estrada or any of his cronies, who have all been placed on the immigration bureau's hold-departure list.

Manda also directed the Flight Operation Briefing Station (FOBS) to closely monitor aircraft movements within the general aviation area, where the hangars of domestic charter airlines are located.

"These are the possible escape routes," he said in a phone interview.

Manda said the FOBS would be closely watching the flights of the Subic International Air, which had been chartered twice by Estrada for trips to Zamboanga del Norte last Tuesday and Cagayan de Oro last Thursday.

"Don't you see the pattern? Those two flights could be dry runs (for his eventual flight out of the country)," he said.

Malacañang officials said they were surprised by Estrada's departure for Zamboanga last Tuesday because they had no prior information about it. The pilot of Subic Air only informed the FOBS that Estrada was on board after the plane had taken off.

Acting ATO chief Anacleto Venturina warned the operator of Subic Air of severe sanctions if it fails to file a correct flight plan again. Estrada and his companions were apparently not listed in the manifest earlier submitted by the airline.

Businessman Jose "Pepito" Alvarez is the president of Subic Air.

Estrada had gone to Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro ostensibly to campaign for the candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, which includes his wife, Eloisa "Loi" Ejercito.

As of yesterday afternoon, he was still in Cagayan de Oro. It was not known when he would be returning to Manila.

Television station ABS-CBN said that since the Supreme Court decision, Estrada had not emerged from his hotel room.

REDISCOVER : Home-Based Opportunities

Your New Work Style for a New Lifestyle!

FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION

Elderly Persons are also welcome

G. COSMOS PHILS., Inc. is exerting efforts everyday, advocating our basic principle, " While pursuing the physical and spiritual happiness of all employees, contributing to the development of mankind and society and attaining co-existence and co-prosperity." In this disordered society, the bureaucrats and some managers of enterprises form this society for themselves, just seeking their own profit. With this selfish way of thinking prevailing, what will become of the future of the Philippines? G. COSMOS PHIL., Inc. was established to help people who have such problems as , "I cannot find a place to work", "I'd like to work but I can't because I have some matters to look after", "I'd like to work after retirement." Our company was established for International contribution. We look forward to receiving your application with heartfelt expectation.

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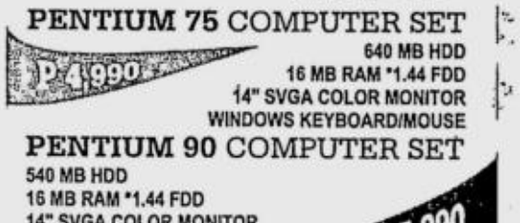

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Gov't moves to hasten prosecution of Estrada in wake of SC decision

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE GOVERNMENT will study ways to speed up the criminal prosecution of Joseph Estrada after the Supreme Court ruled Friday he was no longer president and upheld the legitimacy of the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said yesterday that while the high tribunal did not lift the 30-day status quo and gag order on the six complaints pending against Estrada at his office, he has ordered his legal staff to study the possibility of filing charges against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan on Monday.

The Sandiganbayan has the power to issue a warrant for Estrada's arrest. The status quo and gag order will expire on March 23.

"We are studying the possibility of hurrying the cases along despite the 30-day status quo and gag order. We'll see if we could begin to act on the cases before the end of the period," Desierto told an interviewer.

Desierto pointed out that the status quo order specifically bound the Ombudsman not to act on the cases so as not to render the SC justices' decision moot.

"But there's already been a decision, so how could the Ombudsman render moot the high court's decision now?" he asked.

He said a special panel from his office was "more than ready" to resolve the charges against Estrada swiftly.

"The evidence is complete. The panel has finished studying the complaints. We were just waiting for the SC's decision on Estrada's petitions," he said.

Estrada had filed a petition with the Supreme Court, arguing he never resigned and was still the legitimate president and enjoyed immunity from lawsuits.

He also questioned the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration, saying she was only president in an acting capacity.

Under the law, Estrada has 15 days to appeal the Supreme Court decision.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he had ordered the police and the immigration bureau to "watch closely the airports and private ports because he (Estrada) might flee."

"If I were Estrada's lawyer, I would warn him that he better flee because I know that the evidence against him is really strong," Perez said.

Estrada's lawyer, Rene Saguisag, said Saturday that despite the high court's decision, his client "sounded upbeat."

Saguisag told Agence France Presse that Estrada and his lawyers would meet to review the court decision on Monday.

Although they would likely file a motion for reconsideration in the 15 days allotted to them by the court, Saguisag conceded it would have "a snowball's chance in hell of surviving."

Despite the setback, he said it was unlikely that Estrada would be jailed anytime soon," because "there are processes, there are challenges of all kinds."

Perez said the administration is studying if it could file charges even before the 30-day period ends, perhaps by mid-March, since the Supreme Court has struck down Estrada's immunity.

With a report from AFP

PCGG to appeal ruling on UCPB

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE GOVERNMENT will appeal a Sandiganbayan ruling stopping the Presidential Commission on Good Government from voting the sequestered shares of United Coconut Planters Bank at the bank's stockholders' meeting this week.

PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento said the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General would seek a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court and would take legal action to "assail the validity" of the ruling.

The government stands to lose its 15 board seats in the UCPB with the anti-graft court's ruling.

In a decision issued before open court last week, the Sandiganbayan ruled in favor of the Coconut Farmers Federation of the Philippines which questioned the PCGG's right to represent the country's one million coconut farmers who own majority of UCPB stocks.

Majority of the bank's stocks have been under sequestration since 1986, and government appointees have been running the bank since then.

Sarmiento said the PCGG would seek a temporary restraining order against the implementation of the Sandiganbayan ruling, as well as a petition for certiorari so the high tribunal would reverse the anti-graft court's decision.

Sarmiento cited a 1993 Supreme Court resolution "suspend(ing) the effectivity of the lifting of the sequestration order decreed by the Sandiganbayan... and direct(ing) the restoration of the status quo ante so as to allow the PCGG to continue voting the shares of stocks under sequestration" at UCPB meetings.

The Sandiganbayan ruled against the resolution and banned the PCGG from voting its shares in the next UCPB stockholders meeting on March 6.

The PCGG will be submitting to the Supreme Court its petition for a TRO and certiorari tomorrow.

The government is claiming ownership in the name of one million coconut farmers 95 percent of the shares in the UCPB, which it claims had been put up using funds from the coconut levy imposed on coconut farmers by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

As the representative of the coconut farmers, the PCGG had placed its own appointees on the UCPB board and effectively voted its shares in the company through its representatives.

The Macapagal administration only recently appointed 14 people to the new UCPB board. They are Deogracias Vistan of Metrobank, Francisco del Rosario of the Development Bank of the Philippines, political analyst Alex Magno, People Power Coalition spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco, Francisco Lejano, Ma. Jose Rufino, Helen Osias, Rolando Golez, Teresita Baltazar, Dungca Lim, Efren Villasen, Manuel Valdepuera Jr., Ramon Arceo Jr., Juan Carlos and Oscar Santos.

Most of the new board members were prominent personalities in the Edsa II uprising that ousted former President Joseph Estrada and installed President Macapagal.

The appointees could lose their seats in the UCPB board if the PCGG is not able to secure a TRO and certiorari from the Supreme Court.

But the 14 new board members would remain pending the final decision of the high court on the matter, said PCGG information officer Nick Suarez.

The PCGG has been the authorized representative of the coconut farmers since the bank was sequestered in 1986 and the government took over the voting rights of Cocofed.

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GENERAL SANTOS CITY Date : Mar 17, 2001 (Sat) 10 a.m. Venue : SYDNEY HOTEL
BACOLOD CITY Date : Mar 17, 2001 (Sat) 2 p.m. Venue : HOTEL ALHAMBRA
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ADVT

PNP tags 395 areas election 'hotspots'

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has identified 395 towns and cities throughout the country as "hotspots" in its effort to curb poll violence leading up to the May 14 elections.

Seventeen of the localities are in Metro Manila, while seven others were earmarked for special attention given the high level of violence expected there going by recent election history.

Acting PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza ordered the deployment of more policemen to the "hotspots."

Mendoza said the intensity of political rivalries and election-related violence recorded in the areas in past elections since 1992 was the basis for the watch list.

"Concerned about the situation, the PNP developed the watch list to monitor and forecast election happenings throughout the country," Mendoza said.

According to the list, he said, elections in Luzon and the Visayas tended to be "more violent" than in Mindanao.

Region IV topped the list of hotspots with 233 towns and cities under watch, followed by Region VIII with 143 localities, Region VI with 133, Region VII with 132 and Region V with 115.

Mendoza said some of the areas were tagged as hotspots after at least 30 percent of their barangays were deemed to be under the influence of the communist and secessionist movements.

Mendoza identified the seven municipalities that were tagged as high priority areas as Lagayan, Abra; Mallig, Isabela; Lope de Vega, Northern Samar; Lavesares, Northern Samar; Arakan, North Cotabato; Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, and Lingig, Surigao del Sur.

Other hotspots by region were 27 towns and cities in Region I, 93 in Region II, 122 in Region III, 78 in Region IX, 70 in Region X, 67 in Region XI, 55 in Region XII, 73 in the Caraga Region, 84 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, 77 in the Cordillera Administrative Region and 17 in the National Capital Region.

Mendoza also warned police anew not to get involved in partisan politics. He urged the public to report abuses or violations committed by police during the campaign and election periods.

Christine Herrera

Give migrant Pinoys voting rights, CBCP asks government

BY N. BORDADORA

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday asked the Macapagal administration to give priority to the passage of the Absentee Voting Bill, if possible through a special session of Congress prior to the May 11 elections.

Bishop Ramon Arguelles, chair of the CBCP Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, made the call in behalf of Filipino overseas contract workers on the occasion of the 15th National Migrants Sunday to be marked today.

"The CBCP-ECMI strongly implores the present administration to make the passage of the Absentee Voting Bill a priority. Filipinos overseas should not only be encouraged to 'send home money,' but to 'send their votes' as well," Arguelles said in a statement yesterday.

The Episcopal commission invoked Article 4 of the 1987 Constitution and its assurance to all bona fide Filipino citizens the right to vote. Arguelles said there were more than seven million Filipinos overseas who continue to be deprived of this constitutional right.

"The more than seven million overseas Filipinos are dubbed 'modern day heroes.' Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have persistently denied the 'economic saviors' the exercise of this right," the bishop said.

Arguelles said the potential abuse of absentee voting for the advantage of unscrupulous politicians was not enough reason for both houses of Congress to sit on the bill that would guarantee voting rights for migrant Filipinos.

"Abuses should not be given as reason to deny any citizen the exercise of his right. The abuses must be checked to assure the citizens' free and acknowledged exercise of democratic rights even if they are overseas," the bishop said.

On the occasion of Migrants' Sunday, the CBCP-ECMI also called on the Macapagal administration to scrap the previous administration's policy of encouraging overseas employment to bolster the economy and to assist migrants on how to properly channel their remittances for their own economic uplift.

"It is the government's duty to provide good job opportunities and good working conditions in the country. Moreover in the deployment of Filipinos overseas, the government must ensure adequate protection from exploitation and justice for citizens from exit to re-entry," Arguelles said.

Death Row inmates hit 1,690, Legarda reports

THE NUMBER of Death Row inmates in the Philippines rose by 27 last month to 1,690, prominent anti-crime advocate Sen. Loren Legarda said yesterday.

Of those on Death Row, 884 were sentenced for rape, while most of the others were sentenced for either murder or kidnapping, Legarda said in a statement.

The government executed seven people in 1999 following the restoration of capital punishment in 1994.

However, in a surprising turnabout last year, ousted President Estrada commuted the death sentences of 105 convicts and urged Congress to repeal the death penalty.

It was unclear if those 105 convicts were among Legarda's total.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has not stated her position on the death penalty.

AFP

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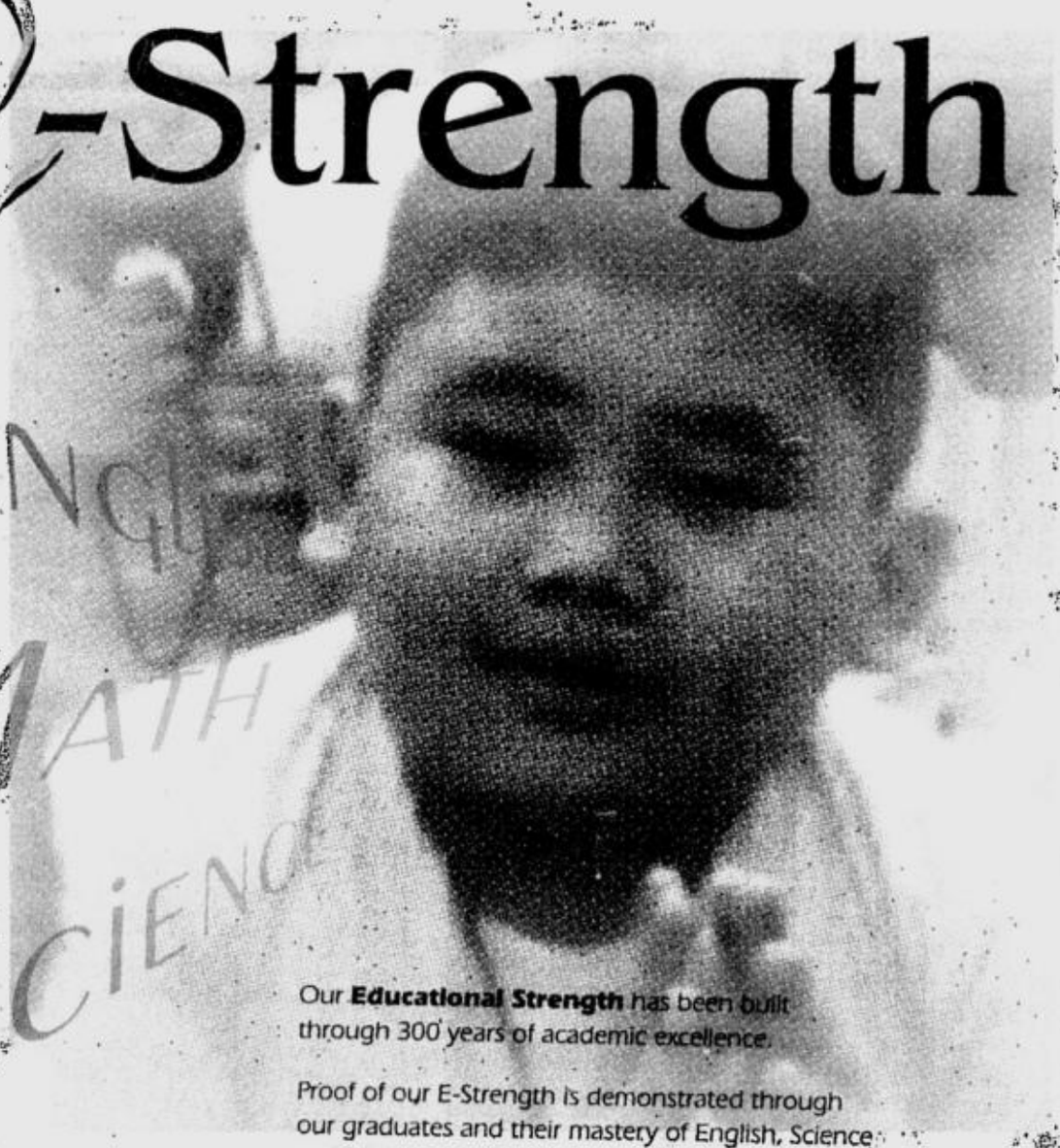

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Local hamburgers safe, says DOH

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

GO ahead and chomp on that Big Mac, Whopper, Champ, or whichever burger you prefer.

They are safe, according to the Department of Health, which has declared the beef products are free from mad cow disease infection.

Records of the three hamburger store giants presented to the DOH showed that the hamburger patties of US-based fast-food chains McDonald's and Burger King and locally based Jollibee came from mad cow disease-free countries.

The three food corporations reported that their beef patties were made of meat that did not even come from Europe. They said the beef used in their hamburgers come from Australia and New Zealand—one ocean away from Western Europe, where the mad cow disease is prevalent.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has declared beef sold in local markets safe for public consumption while the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control has declared dairy products—even those from Europe—are free from mad cow disease infection.

The American hamburger chains immediately sought to dispel any insinuation that their beef products could be infected with the mad cow disease following the mild hysteria which started here last week over the dreaded disease. McDonald's and Burger King suffered adverse effects in sales over the mad cow scare in their home fronts the United States and Canada.

Australia and New Zealand—where McDonald's, Burger King and Jollibee claim to get their steady supply of beef—are not included in the Department of Agriculture's list of countries grappling with the mad cow disease. Importation of meat from these European countries has been banned since November last year.

Dr. Ernesto Villalon, DOH expert on mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, has reported that Filipinos who are most at risk of mad cow disease infection are those who have been to Europe around the time of the outbreak late last year.

The health department has cautioned such persons to refrain from donating blood to eliminate any possibility of mad cow contamination among individuals and blood banks.

The NCDPC added that dairy products sourced from the countries were free of mad cow disease because the virus could not be transferred through a female cow's milk.

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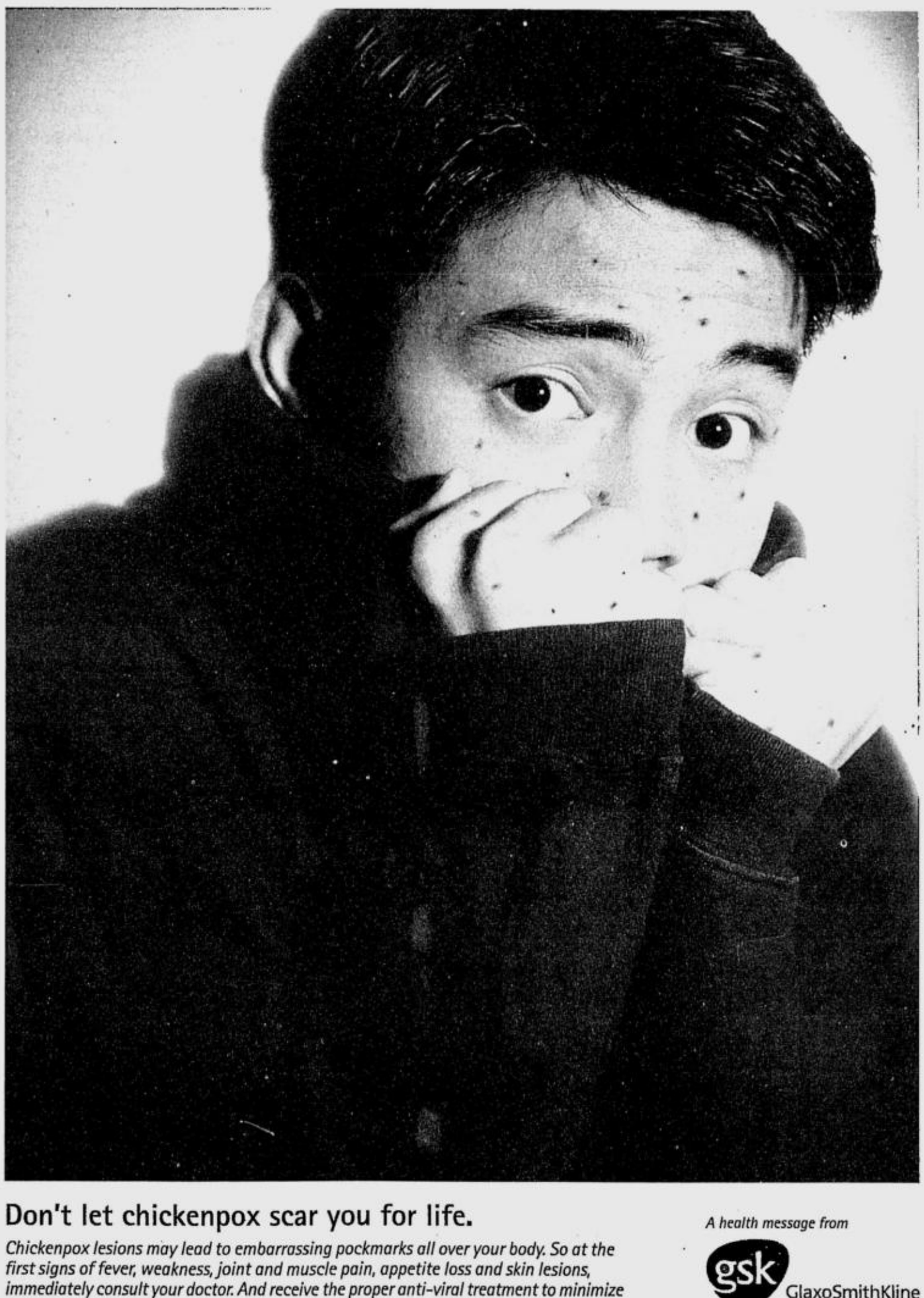

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7. Pension Plan of 10 units
8. One (1) sack of rice per month for one year

CRITERIA/MGA PAMANTAYAN

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2. **Sipag, Tiyaga at Tapang**
   Binubuhos ang sarili sa mga proyekto para sa kapwa; may pagpupursigi sa kabila ng mga hadlang; may lakas ng loob (courage under fire).
3. **Katapatan at Karangalan**
   Hindi nasangkot o nasasangkot sa anumang anomalya/iskandalo (sa komunidad); ginagampanan ang mga tungkulin ng isang mamamayang may pagkilala sa sariling halaga (self-worth).
4. **May Takot at Pag-asa sa Diyos**
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2. **Ugnayan ng Pamilya**
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3. **Katapatan at Karangalan**
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1. **Nagsisilbi kahit Lampas sa Tawag ng Tungkulin (Beyond the Call of Duty)**
   May kusang pagsisilbi kahit sa labas ng paaralan patungo sa lipunan.
2. **May Matinding Paniniwala sa Panlipunang Katarungan (Strong Sense of Social Justice)**
   Hindi basta sumasang-ayon sa paniniwala ng nakararami; matayog ang paninindigan sa sarili; ipinaglalaban ang prinsipyo sa buhay; tumutugon sa mga pangkasalukuyang isyung panlipunan.
3. **Mapagkusang-loob (Volunteerism)**
   May matinding pagtataya para sa propesyon; kusang nagpapadestino kahit sa mga liblib na pook.
4. **Katapatan at Karangalan (Moral Character and Integrity)**
   Iginagalang ng mga mamamayan; hindi nasangkot sa anumang anomalya o iskandalo at sa mga makasariling gawain (e.g. pagbebenta ng kung anu-anong bagay, pagpapalinis ng sariling bakuran para sa dagdag puntos sa grado, atbp.).
5. **Pagkamalikhain at Pagkamapamaraan (Creativity and Resourcefulness)**
   Nagagawan ng paraan ang paggamit ng mga katutubong kagamitan o kung anuman ang mapapakinabangan para maging mas epektibo ang pagtuturo.
6. **Nabubuhay sa Pag-asa (Sense of Optimism)**
   May positibong pagtingin sa buhay; hindi madaling masiraan ng loob sa kabila ng mga kakulangan o mga pagsubok sa propesyon.

Limitasyon:

- Hindi kukulangin sa sampung (10) taon na nagtuturo;
- Nagtuturo sa isang pormal na institusyon;
- Kabilang sa alinman sa mababa (primary) o mataas na antas (secondary) at pampubliko (public) o pribadong (private) institusyon.

BAYANING SAMAHANG PILIPINO (Institution)

1. **Paglilingkod sa Mahihirap at Komunidad**
   Kinakailangang ang mga proyekto o mga programa ay: (a) patuloy na pinatatakbo; (b) may magandang epekto sa kalagayan ng komunidad; at (k) may tinutugunang pangkasalukuyang isyu ng lipunan; malakas sa mga miyembro ang spirit of volunteerism.
2. **May Sariling Sikap at Hindi Kailangang Umasa sa Iba (Self-Reliant)**
   Pinagyayaman ang mga nalikom na pera at iba pang resources para hindi umasa sa iba o sa mga funding agencies habang-buhay; may tiwala sa kakayahan ng mga miyembro na magpatakbo ng samahan.
3. **Katapatan at Karangalan**
   Hindi nasasangkot sa anumang anomalya; ginagalang at kinikilala ang kanilang kontribusyon sa komunidad.
4. **Demokratikong Pamamalakad**
   Kumikilos at kasangkot sa proyekto ang mga miyembro; bawa't miyembro ay bahagi ng malakihang desisyon ukol sa pamamalakad ng samahan; pantay-pantay ang pagtingin maging sa miyembro o sa mga taga-komunidad.

BAYANING PILIPINO SA ASYA PASIPIKO (OFWs)

1. **Social Responsibility**
   Must be actively serving the community for at least two (2) years; reaches out to the disadvantaged sectors by supporting projects or programs to improve the quality of life.
2. **Hardwork, Industry and Discipline**
   Has basic sense of responsibility towards work; can deliver the work expected; has systematic work ethics and initiative; obedient to proper rules and procedures; patient when necessary.
3. **Moral Integrity and Social Acceptability**
   Has no case of graft and corruption; not involved in any scandal or anomaly at present; may have had a history of conversion/moral transformation; able to separate objective tasks from emotional/personal involvement; accepted by the community as a person with a fair sense of justice; respected by the community in general.
4. **Love for Family**
   Endures sacrifices for the welfare of his family; regularly communicates (thru letters, phone calls, Internet) with his family; plans for the future of his family.
5. **Love for Country**
   Proud to be a Filipino; proud of achievements of fellow Filipinos; has sense of Philippine history, language and culture; plans to go back and settle in the Philippines.

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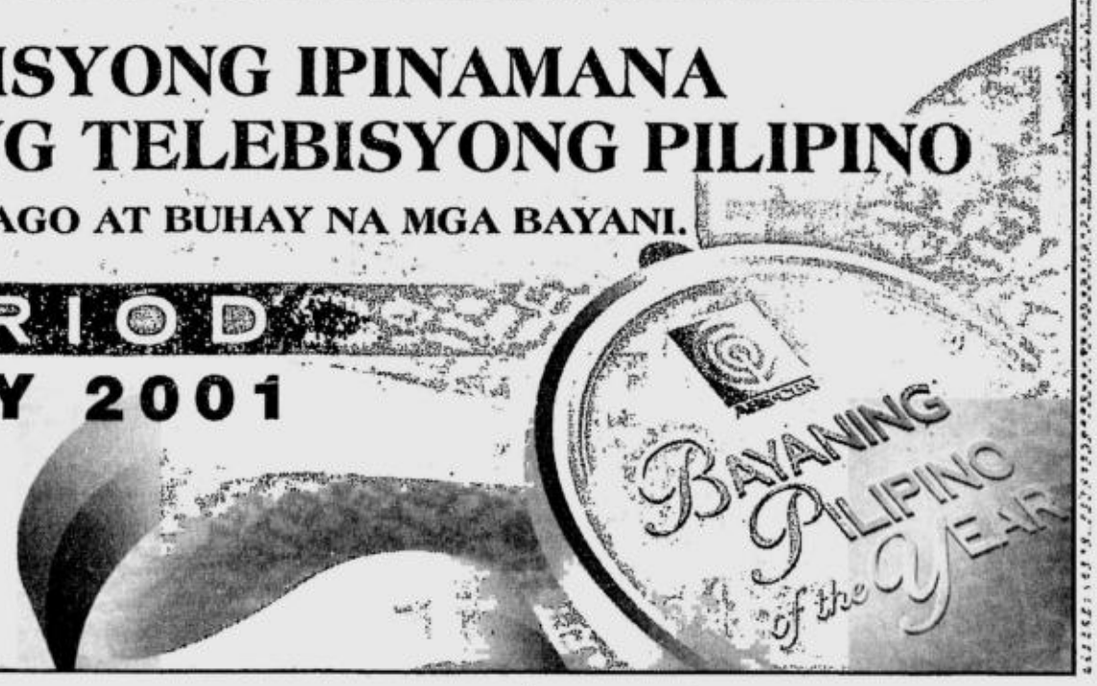

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Peace, order worsened under Erap, says Golez

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

PEACE and order deteriorated under two-and-a-half years of deposed President Joseph Estrada as shown by the "dramatic rise" in crimes, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday.

Golez said communist guerrillas considerably grew in number in the three years since Estrada assumed office in 1998, mainly because the Estrada administration focused its attention on making war against Moro secessionists in Mindanao.

Golez made these claims during a consultative meeting between women's groups under the umbrella organization Teamwork and top officials of various departments yesterday.

"The dramatic rise in crimes is indicative of what happened (under Estrada's watch)," Golez said.

Citing records of the Philippine National Police, Golez said there was a steady rise in total crime volume, or the number of crimes reported nationwide, in the past three years.

From 71,575 crimes reported in 1998, the number jumped to 81,509 the following year. This further increased to 82,242 last year.

PNP records showed that prior to the Estrada administration, total crime volume had been gradually decreasing from 1995 to 1997.

Golez explained that the rise in criminality during this period was brought about by the disturbing rise in "non-index crimes," compared with a minor drop in "index crimes."

Non-index crimes include tax evasion, estafa, falsification of public documents and illegal gambling. The index crimes on the other hand include murder, homicide, rape and kidnapping.

"Most of the crimes (reported from 1998 to 2000) are the non-index crimes. This is a manifestation of the breakdown in morality because of the example set from above," said Golez.

Estrada was ousted by the second People Power revolt last Jan. 20 because of his alleged involvement in illegal gambling payoffs and corruption.

He now faces seven criminal cases for plunder and corruption.

Golez said Estrada failed to curb the growth of the communist insurgency because it focused its attention on its "all-out war" policy against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

The former congressman said the all-out war policy did not significantly reduce the MILF's armed strength.

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Gov't to help 6 OFWs in Saudi murder case

THE PHILIPPINE government will provide special assistance to six Filipino workers jailed in Saudi Arabia for the alleged murder of a countryman, according to Malacañang.

The Palace said in a statement yesterday that the witness in the case, another Filipino overseas worker, retracted his earlier testimony saying he had been tortured into tagging the six Filipinos.

An Agence France Presse report identified the six as Sergio Aldana, Alex Hugo, Antonio Alveza, Willy Bautista, Miguel Fernandez and Joven Praxidio.

They were accused of killing Filipino worker Jaime de la Cruz last year after he won a huge amount in an underground lottery.

Malacañang said the next hearing for the six accused was set for March 14 but gave no further details.

The wife of De la Cruz was reported to have said she was willing to drop the charges against the six in return for P6 million in "blood money" and a letter asking for forgiveness, the Palace said.

It did not say whether the Philippine government would provide the money or what other course of action it would take.

In the past, Filipinos facing the death penalty in the Middle East managed to win their freedom by paying blood money to the families of their victims.

On another front, it was learned that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has relaxed some of its policies toward foreign workers to allow them greater freedom to move about the country and to lessen the number of fees they have to pay.

Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Rafael Seguis, in a report to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, said the new measures were a prelude to the implementation of a law allowing foreigners, including OFWs, to own property in Saudi Arabia.

Seguis said more than seven million foreign workers would benefit from the policy changes.

He said Saudi employers would also be required to subscribe to a mandatory health insurance plan to cover the medical expenses of their foreign workers, Seguis said.

The Saudi government is also planning to scrap the $533-fee for the inclusion of the guest workers' spouses in their residence permits.

Seguis said the Saudi government had also announced it would soon ban the arbitrary transfer of housemaids, family drivers, cooks and housekeepers from one employer to another upon the expiration of their contracts or when their services are no longer needed.

He said many employers had been known to "sell" their housemaids to avoid shouldering the cost of plane tickets and exit visas, and to make as much as $1,306 from the transaction.

AFP, with a report from Gerald Lacuarta

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OPINION

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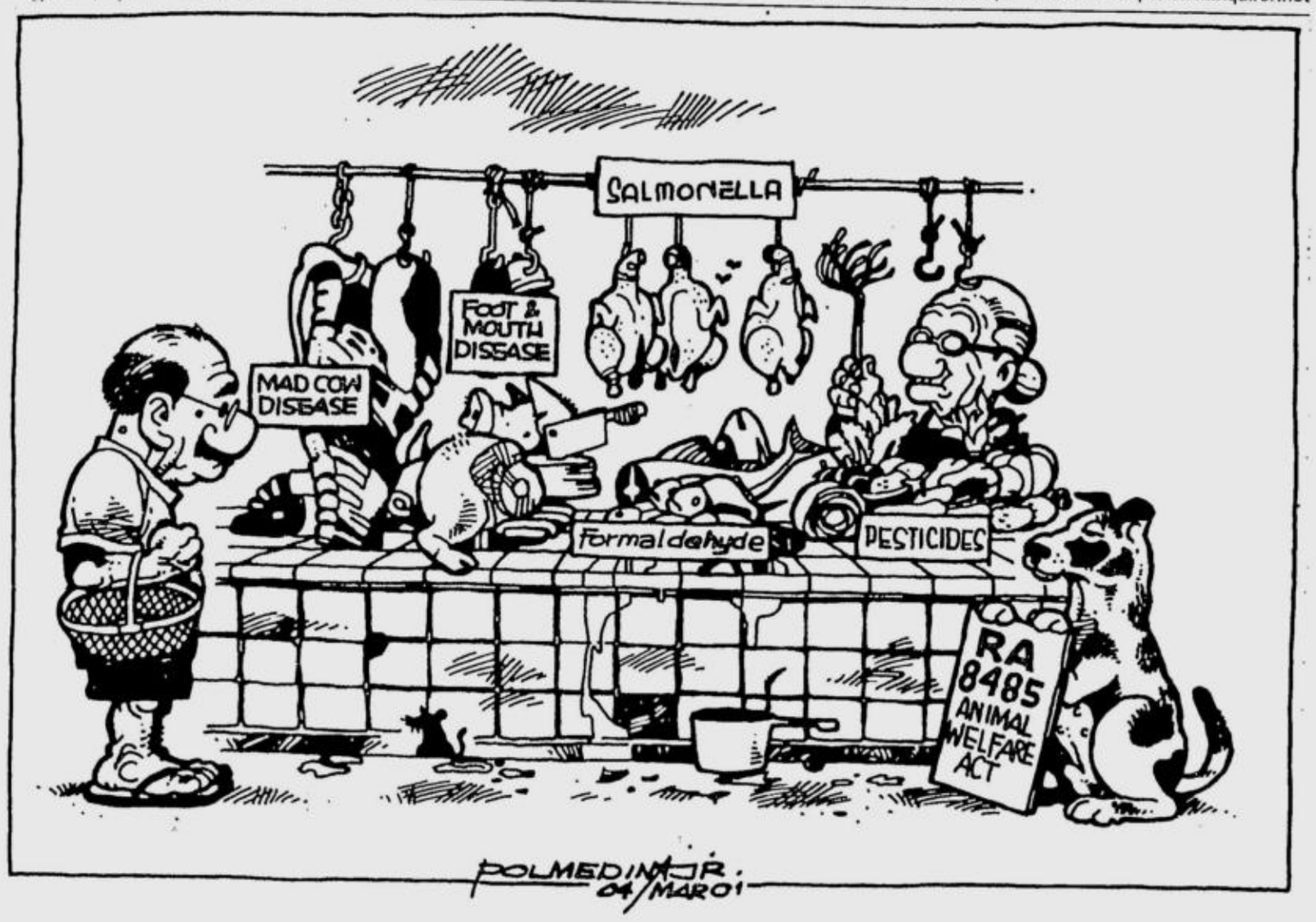

All bases covered

LIKE her name, Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco has all the bases covered. Not only has she talked disparagingly of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), she has also refused to inhibit herself from the deliberations of the citizens' electoral watchdog's application for accreditation with the poll body. She is a walking cliché: a prosecutor, judge and executioner rolled into one.

EDITORIALS

She can only continue to be so at the cost of the credibility of the Comelec. Unable to restrain herself from publishing or disseminating damaging studies about the Namfrel, she has also found it irresistible to sit in the commission and pass judgment on the Namfrel. The unfairness of it all does not bode well for fair elections this May.

We do not wish to question Tancangco's scholarship and research acumen. She may claim that her studies are hallmarks of academic and scientific rigor—that is something for the social scientists and academics to determine. But just as a thesis or research panel conducts its business with the least shred of preconceived notion, evaluating the application of an electoral watchdog needs an open mind. Definitely the commission assigned to screen such applications must be above reproach.

Clearly, Tancangco falls short of the ideal. It is doubtful, for one, if her studies about the Namfrel have passed the academic wringer, that is, subjected to the scrutiny of non-partisan experts and observers who can test the correctness of their methodology as well as the soundness of their conclusions.

Obviously Tancangco believes in the rectitude of her researches and will mince no word—or spare no initiative—in having the Comelec see her way. But she can only do so to her own perdition. She can only do so at the bidding of the Namfrel, which does not have to lift a finger—or file the necessary pleadings with either the Comelec or the Supreme Court—to prove its point that Tancangco is biased.

Tancangco may not know it but she herself is the Namfrel's smoking-gun evidence against her alleged prejudice and partiality. By insisting on keeping her place in the Comelec, she shows the blindness and pettiness of Olympian gods who played with the fates of men.

But alas, the nation cannot afford a Hera like her, not when the future of democracy is at stake. Coming on the heels of People Power II, the May election will either be a reaffirmation or a denial of the revolution. Certainly it will be a barometer of the health of our democracy, which to the less democratically inclined like Lee Kuan Yew and other serial foot-in-the-mouth Asian prattlers, is really a function of illiteracy and lack of education.

Tancangco seems infected with the same messianic complex, which is really a mask for democratic cynicism or outright despotism. By brooking no opposition, by dismissing that an electoral watchdog like the Namfrel can serve as a credible guidepost to democracy, she is saying that democracy is inexorably hopeless. Democracy is being demolished from the inside, and its wrecking ball is Tancangco.

Computerization

THE NAMFREL and other citizens' groups doing the thankless job of voter education and election monitoring are signposts of the advances of our democracy. They serve as a lightning rod for electoral reforms, which are necessary to modernize the election system and consolidate democracy.

But electoral watchdogs will continue to function like Sysiphean movers if the Comelec does not follow through the initiatives. For example, the May election should have put in place an expanded system for computerized voting and tallying to ease the pressure on teachers and canvassers and ensure greater transparency.

Although there have been debates on the pace of computerization, what is important is that the pace should be hastened, and that the May elections should see more voting precincts enjoying the modernity and security of computerization.

The system should be expanded because part of the seeming instability inherent in Philippine democracy is the primeval system of casting ballots and the equally Jurassic system of counting and canvassing. The archaic system has been prone to abuse and tampering, giving rise to violent electoral protests that undermine the gains of democracy.

The gag order

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT'S all academic now, I suppose, but I still have to voice my misgivings about the gag order of the Supreme Court in the pending case of Estrada v. Macapagal-Arroyo. With all due respect, I must say that the order smacked of censorship pure and simple and ran counter to the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

The temporary restraining order was based on the *sub judice* doctrine, which prohibits the ventilation in public of any comment on any case pending before a court of justice. The justification of the principle is that such comments are likely to influence the judge (and particularly the jury in American courts) to the prejudice of a knowledgeable and impartial decision of the case.

I have always been against that doctrine and waited for an opportunity to call for its reexamination while I was on the Supreme Court. That occasion never came. Through this column, I have not hesitated to air my views on a number of pending cases (as other persons have also been doing) but I have yet to be cited for contempt. As far as I know, neither has anyone else been called to task in recent years for violating the rule.

In my book on Constitutional Law, pp. 224-225, 2001 ed., I make the following observations:

"The rule in the Philippines prescribes public comment on pending litigations, on the ground that it would interfere with the administration of justice. As held in People v. Alarcon, 69 Phil. 265, 'Newspaper publications tending to impede, obstruct, embarrass or influence the courts in administering justice in a pending suit or proceeding constitutes criminal contempt which is summarily punishable by the courts. The rule is otherwise after the case is ended.'

"Why or how such comments will prejudice the administration of justice, the Court did not explain. Significantly, there are no juries in this country to shield from extraneous comment, the judge being the sole trier of questions of fact and law. Could there be here an implied admission that the judge himself might be unduly influenced by such remarks though he is supposed to be removed from popular passions or persuasions and to decide only according to his own lights?"

Justice Manuel V. Moran, who later became chief justice, was the lone dissenter. He was for more freedom in commenting on judicial conduct although he agreed that any such comment should be couched in respectful language.

I emphasize the last sentence of the quoted excerpt as particularly addressed to the members of the Supreme Court who imposed the ban on the parties and their counsel in the *quo warranto* case. Aniano Desierto and Rene Saguisag have really been exceptionally garrulous in espousing their respective causes, to the point of being suspected of grandstanding. The justices probably silenced the noisy out-of-court debate because they could not hear themselves think.

Seriously, I fail to understand why they restrained Desierto and Saguisag from talking about the case in public. Voltaire might well have declared, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Previous restraint on the expression of views affecting the public interest is anathema in the free society, more so where it is imposed by the Supreme Court itself.

Following the reasons given in the Alarcon case, one could conclude that the justices laid down the ban because they did not want to be influenced by the arguments raised by these two talkative lawyers. The Court will deny this, of course. At any rate, these arguments were already lengthily discussed in their respective pleadings for the justices to read and consider. Repeating these pleadings orally would not have made them any more—or less—persuasive.

Another conjecture is that the justices were worried that the views expressed by Messrs. Saguisag and Desierto might influence the public, which might in turn influence the Court. If that was their reason, then they were admitting their own weakness for it was they and not the public who would decide the case. By issuing the gag order, the justices were in effect conceding that extraneous factors might affect their own supposedly independent judgment.

Although comparison is odious, I cannot help recalling the dispute over the winner in the US presidential election last year. While deliberating on the results of the Florida popular vote, neither the Supreme Court of that state nor the US Supreme Court restrained public comment on the subject. Both the Bush and Gore camps, no less than the media and the public, aired their views freely—even against the courts—while the justices were pondering the issue.

Either the justices were sure they would not be influenced by such views in arriving at their own decisions, or there is more respect for freedom of expression in the United States than in this country. The courts never saw fit to prohibit public comment on the matter because they recognized the right of the people to speak their mind on the vital question of who had won the mandate to be their next president.

Public opinion should not be silenced for fear that it will intimidate or pressure the judicial process. A judiciary inhibited by that fear is afraid of its own weakness. "Fear of serious injury cannot alone justify suppression of free speech and assembly," said Justice Brandeis "Men feared witches and burned women. It is the function of speech to free man from the bondage of irrational fears."

It is gratifying that the high court has decided the Estrada-Macapagal case even before its self-imposed deadline. The case deserved its immediate attention because it involved no less than the legitimacy of the present government. I have not read the decision yet, but I'm glad it sustained the power and rage of the Filipino people. It has also renewed the nation's faith in the wisdom and courage of the Supreme Court.

Dealing with the enemy

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEBODY once told me that he has no temptation. Why? Because as soon as temptation comes, he gives in right away! The Gospel today (Lk. 4, 1-13) tells us that even Jesus was tempted by the devil. You and I are involved in this warfare of good and evil every day. We must then learn how to deal with the enemy.

* * *

Do not ignore the enemy. He is real and he exists as a clear and present danger. A lot of people become victims of the evil one because they become complacent, lax and proud. He takes his time, but he is working 24 hours a day, and he has laid his traps all over, in very strategic places. Be not like the ostrich who buries its head on the ground when danger comes.

* * *

Do not underestimate the enemy. He is a master tactician, scheming and an expert in covert operations. He would never come as outright ugly and bad. Rather, he appears as good, beautiful and pleasant. He is good, in fact, very good in using and manipulating the five senses of our bodies and the basic longings of our hearts. Furthermore, he is No. 1 in whispering half-truths. Half-truths are dangerous, and many people easily fall for it.

* * *

Do not overestimate yourself when dealing with the enemy. Always be on guard. Be humble. You and I are weak. But with God we are strong. And do not taunt the enemy. Do not provoke the enemy unnecessarily. Do not lead yourself into temptation.

* * *

Do not give an inch to the enemy. Give him an inch, and soon he will take a mile. Remember the story of the camel who appealed to his master just to put in his ears into the tent because it was cold outside? Then, his legs, his body, his tail—and the story ends with the camel inside and the master outside the tent!

* * *

Do not negotiate with the enemy. If you do so, you will end up losing. His favorite bylines are: "Okay *naman siguro* (Maybe it's okay)"; "*Saka na lang* (later)." Do not waver. Do not dilly-dally. JUST SAY NO!

* * *

Do not panic. Fear is useless in this warfare. God is in control. God is victorious. He is stronger than all powers and principalities. Remember, when you are weak, He is strong. He operates, but you must cooperate. Your best weapon is love. Your best bullets are prayers and sacrifice. When under enemy fire, keep repeating the prayer "Come Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit!"

* * *

How do I know so much about the enemy? That's because I deal with him all the time. I've found out that the enemy many times is my own self, my unbridled passions, dreams and schemes, the enemy within. But, I've also found out that the greatest ally is also within. Often battle weary, fallen and scarred, yes, but I have always found a safe shelter and refuge in God's forgiving heart. See you there sometime, comrades!

* * *

FLASH! According to our latest intelligence report, the enemy recently dispatched some 10,000 agents all over the Philippines disguised as politicians tempting and luring the people with promises of money, power and security. They are reported to be loaded with lots of gifts and goodies on their sleigh, with their ready smile and sweet talk. You are warned that many of them are dangerous and are "wolves in sheep clothing," who will devour you and whatever rightful share you have in this country once they get elected. The public is warned to be vigilant and prayerful. Do not, repeat, do not fall for their empty promises, lures and temptations. Please pass on this advisory! Pass it on. Fax it, text it. Satan is on the loose! *Ingat!*

* * *

When tempted, consider the following reminders: "A few moments on the lips, forever on the hips." "*Sa kaunting sarap, saksakan naman ang hirap.*" "A release of passion can lead to a life of pain and depression." All these sayings remind us that it is better to sacrifice a little bit now than to suffer much later. Follow the path of righteousness and you'll have peace. Give in to the enemy, and you'll never have peace.

* * *

Mama always told us when we were children that there is a "bulong brigade" whenever a temptation is in progress. On the left ear is the enemy tempting us to do what is evil. On the other ear is our guardian angel whispering to us to do what is good. If we succumb to the temptation, the enemy rejoices and our guardian angel cries. On the other hand, if we choose what is good, our guardian angel rejoices, and the enemy goes away angry and mad, but, as the Gospel today warns us, "only for a time." So be alert. Be on guard.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, in this world and in this war with the enemy, protect me, shield me and keep me always and ever in your heart. Amen.

Revision of China's marriage law stirs up debate

FEATURE

Sarah Cheung

BEIJING—"If you don't beat your wife every three days, she'll start tearing up roof tiles."

Or so an old Chinese saying goes. Meaning a wife who is not beaten is a wife out of control. "It means there's nothing wrong with beating your wife and moreover, that it should be done," said Chen Mingxia, a law professor and project coordinator on domestic violence.

Domestic violence was not an issue that the Chinese public talked about, let alone thought about adding to a law, until the 1990s. But all that is set to change this month as China's top legislators gather for their annual two-week session. They will discuss a revised marriage law, last changed more than 20 years ago, which would outlaw domestic violence as well detailing grounds for divorce.

"This is very, very great progress for China," said Chen, who has been campaigning for years for recognition of domestic violence, a problem state media say affects 30 percent of households. "In the past, it was seen as something very normal, something that should happen," she said.

Legislators are also trying to keep the marriage law relevant in a country where people have more wealth, are increasingly heading to divorce courts and where the number of rich businessmen keeping mistresses is on the rise. They are proposing to add clauses on inheritance and property rights, as well as detailing compensation rights in a divorce to revise a relatively simple law first promulgated 50 years ago that was long on principles but short on detail.

To tackle the problems, legislators published draconian revisions nearly three years ago for discussion. It soon became clear the majority opposed new clauses, making adultery illegal and requiring a three-year separation before divorce, with unusual passion.

Now, watered down and more palatable to the public, the amendments are set to be debated by the National People's Congress, China's top legislative body from March 5 to 15.

Legislators stopped short of making adultery illegal but will consider making them liable to compensate their spouses in divorce settlements. Extramarital affairs are covered by the phrase: "It is forbidden to engage in bigamy and any other activities that harm the system of one man, one wife."

Some think the clause should not have been watered-down. "I think they should have kept the clause making adultery illegal, because it's becoming more and more common nowadays," said a 57-year-old worker surnamed Lin.

However, Li Yinhe, professor of sociology at the Chinese Academy of Social Services, thinks the legislators were right to exclude the clause. "You cannot, in reality, use the law to punish adultery. I think that moral standards should not go into a law. There's no need and it's not suitable," Li said.

Some 8 percent of respondents in a survey by the All China Women's Federation last year admitted to having extramarital affairs.

The revised bill also sets down what can cause a "breakdown in mutual affection"—grounds for a divorce—which was missing from the law passed in 1981. It says mutual affection has broken down if a couple is separated for two years, and they can request a divorce.

That clause has caused heated debate. "I think the longer the time the better," said Wang Suge, a 52-year-old divorcee. "I think the length of time is connected to a higher divorce rate," because it makes divorce too easy and people might not make an effort to make the marriage work.

Official figures show that more than one million people divorced in China in 1999. The divorce rate in urban centers has hit 25 percent.

But Li said there were many positive changes to the law, especially on property rights, with clauses included on establishing who owns what in a marriage, pre-nuptial agreements and debt obligations.

The revisions change the old way of dividing everything and have already caused some couples to decide against marrying, Li said. "It proves there are people with property concerns who think at the end, if they don't get anything, they won't marry," she said.

Chen, who was consulted during the drafting of the revision, said it would serve as a lesson for future legislators. "There has never been a law before the revision of this marriage law that has stirred up so much attention and attracted such a wide-ranging and long-lasting public debate," she said.

"If every legislation could be like the revision for the marriage law, to open up such an open debate, then I think there is great hope and future for the perfection of China's democratic laws." *Reuters*

Hypnotized by God

COMMENTARY

Jesus Enrique G. Saplala

WHERE were you when God hypnotized the Filipino people to go to the Edsa Shrine from Jan. 17-20?

This was the question I asked my freshmen students when I met them for the first time after the second People Power. I am teaching Psychology and it hit me that I wanted to integrate their experience of Edsa with our topic on consciousness. Interestingly enough, the answers that they gave were strikingly similar.

Some of my students said that initially they were apathetic toward what was happening before Edsa II because they could hardly relate to it. Many of them would rather text their friends, watch MTV, wrestle with their computers or go out on a "gimmick." I began to notice this sense of apathy when only a few of my students joined the "Jericho March" last December. I knew that even if they were not really required to go no amount of encouragement would make them go. I voiced my concern about their indifference during one of our faculty meetings. And just as when we were about to do something, Edsa II happened.

Perhaps by God's design the inevitable happened. I say by God's design because the very instruments that made my students apathetic toward Edsa were the ones that made them change their minds.

As my mentor Fr. Jaime Bulatao, S.J. puts it; "There was a consciousness shift!" Their state of consciousness was altered or in street parlance, *na*-hypnotize *sila*!

When I asked them to give the reasons why they went to Edsa, they said they had received text messages from their friends that a critical mass of one million was needed to make the military join the people at Edsa, or urging everyone to go to Edsa to oust President Estrada.

Others said that they were mesmerized by what they saw on television and this moved them to call up their friends.

One of them said that she was surfing through the Net and all of a sudden she realized that the world was "chatting about Edsa."

> Nobody can deny that Edsa II itself sent a very strong message that changed his state of consciousness from apathy to a will to change

"I had to lie and tell my mom I was going to the mall but in truth I went to the Edsa Shrine," another student related.

What made them go to Edsa? It was the common thought that everybody wanted Erap to resign. Using the concept of consciousness, I told them that it was when the stimulus is strong that one's consciousness shifts (or changes). This change was the one that made them go to the Edsa Shrine.

I remember that this was the same analogy used by Father Bulatao when he explained to me Edsa I. People stood before the tanks that roared along Edsa and stopped them with their bare hands because they heard the strong appeal of Jaime Cardinal Sin over the radio. Women and little girls offered flowers to the armed soldiers because there was something that made them do it.

It was the same force that put the youth of today in trance and made them take part in Edsa II. Taking part meant having volunteers from Assumption throwing packets of biscuits and juices to the mammoth crowd every night or keeping a prayer vigil group in the wee hours of the morning. Witnessing young people dancing at the foot of the Edsa Shrine may have been a better gimmick for them. Teenagers and young adults acting as *hagads* for the defecting government officials and personalities was remarkable. Young sports enthusiasts hanging down from the Rosario flyover just to be a part of history was truly a feat. Did they do it for fun? It's possible, but I was thinking that the fast images and the continuous uproar were transpiring right before their very eyes and they caught up with their generation and drew them like iron filings being attracted to a magnet.

How about us adults who took part in Edsa II? Was it the courage of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson or Clarissa Ocampo's explosive testimony that hypnotized us? Or the unopened second envelope? Was it the 11 senators who voted no? Or the text messages that we got Friday morning? Faith tells me that these were the events God used to communicate to us what we could do or to put it in a psycho-spiritual perspective, God used these events to hypnotize us.

Although I always emphasize that in hypnosis, one has control over one's mind, nobody can deny that Edsa II itself sent a very strong message that changed his state of consciousness from apathy to a will to change.

This brings to mind two questions: Could it also be the same reason why the pro-Erap ralliers went to Makati or was it because of Ernie Maceda's plea? Did the mounting presence of People Power put Erap in a trance and make him resign?

I wonder.

Jesus Enrique G. Saplala is a psychologist and teaches at Miriam College.

Ethical progress

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

JOSE Rizal once used this term to denote significant changes in the consciousness of Filipinos, which to him justified an adjustment in the way Spain governed the islands. "The islands cannot remain in the condition they are without requiring from the sovereign country more liberty....For new men, a new social order."

In that famous essay, "The Philippines a Century Hence," Rizal bewailed the continuous suppression of the Filipinos' fundamental rights and their non-representation in the Spanish Cortes. He warned that an armed revolution for independence would be the logical consequence of this oppression. He admonished Spain to give Filipinos their rights as human beings, and to confer upon them equal status as the Spaniards. If Spain will not listen, the country has no choice but to redeem herself in the field of battle, he said.

"There now exists a factor which was formerly lacking—the spirit of the nation has been aroused and a common misfortune, a common debasement has united all the inhabitants of the islands. A numerous enlightened class now exists within and without the islands, a class created and continually augmented by the stupidity of certain governing powers...This class, whose number is cumulatively increasing, is in constant communication with the rest of the islands, and if today it constitutes only the brain of the country, in a few years it will form the whole nervous system and manifest its existence in all its acts."

Rizal was thinking of the Filipino youth of his time, but his words aptly describe the people power generation that overthrew the corrupt and incompetent regime of Joseph Ejercito Estrada. Rizal believed that the future of the country lay in the hands of the enlightened Filipino youth, who embodied the highest level of ethical progress. In his view, only when a colonized people have attained ethical progress does it become logical and natural for them to claim the right to self-government.

Rizal read the signs of the times correctly. He knew that modernity had reached our shores. Values that were alien to a subjugated people had taken root in the minds of educated Filipinos—for example, that all human beings had fundamental rights and that nations had the right to create their own destiny. Such ideas provided the revolution against Spain a nationalist vision that previous revolts did not have. More than just reacting to the excesses of a tyrannical colonial regime, these new Filipinos were creating a new democratic and independent nation.

As it was in Rizal's time, so it is today. Only the circumstances have changed. We are now a free people, but the task of building the nation is far from complete. Ethical progress, of which Rizal spoke so passionately, is only now beginning to be evident again in our national life. The young Filipinos who formed the core of People Power II were not just demanding the resignation of a corrupt and undeserving president. More than this, they were inaugurating a new political culture. Where is this striving come from? Why have we suddenly discovered corruption, and how do we explain the strong revulsion that young people today feel for the system of *trapo* politics?

I think this sea change in political consciousness has come with our gradual integration into a global moral community. Young Filipinos today are exposed to a modern way of life, rules for living that are still new to most of our people but are taken for granted in the more stable democracies abroad. Just like the *ilustrados* of the late 19th century, today's young people are learning to measure their own society's institutions by the standards of a more universal morality.

They demand value for the taxes they pay, respect for their rights as persons, accountability from government, and a high level of honesty and integrity from people in public life. Against the grain of the traditional culture in which their ancestors grew, they demand that persons be measured by their capabilities and not by their family names; they expect laws to be followed by everyone, with no exemptions based on social status. They expect status to be earned rather than inherited. They insist that every Filipino be given equal opportunity to grow into a complete human being. These, not coincidentally, are also the basic norms of conduct in the global community into which our young Filipinos expect to be received as full-fledged players.

Like the *trapos* who continue to dominate our society, Estrada underestimated the power of the thinking generation. He was not aware that young Filipinos were quietly imbibing a modern ethos that rejected politicians who treat their positions like private property, and mindless celebrities who indulge their illusions by seeking public office.

Rizal's agenda for an ethically awakened generation is far from finished. A hundred years ago, he tried to persuade Spain that Filipinos had matured enough to be able to run their own affairs. Today, we confront not a foreign power but ourselves, but the questions about fitness for self-rule are essentially the same. Can we respect and live with one another even if we belong to different religions and ethnic backgrounds? Can we take care of our people, especially the young and the least of our citizens? Do we have a concept of what it is to be human in our time? Can we restore our devastated environment and rebuild our institutions? Can we rise from the wasted opportunities of the past and look to the future with hope?

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The myth of the El Shaddai vote

COMMENTARY

John Nery

THIS much we can say about the political clout of Brother Mike Velarde and the El Shaddai religious movement: At best, it is untested, at worst, it is the political equivalent of faith-healing quackery. It requires an act of self-deception on the part of the alleged beneficiary.

To be sure, Brother Mike can summon huge crowds to assemble. Every Saturday, hundreds of thousands troop to the grounds of the Philippine International Convention Center, in what was once routinely referred to as the "reclaimed area," to pray with him and listen to him.

A 1996 article in Asiaweek magazine called it right: "No church can contain the El Shaddai congregation. Soon, perhaps, no urban space will either."

The crowds are still there every weekend, in that urban space bounded on the east by the Star City carnival grounds, on the south by the World Trade Center, on the north by the PICC, and on the west by the mammoth mausoleum known as Imelda Marcos' Film Center of the Philippines.

The crowds are not limited to the Philippine setting. Any country with a sizable contingent of Filipino overseas contract workers has seen the El Shaddai phenomenon at work. In Hong Kong, for example, Chater Road, off Statue Square, right in the heart of the Special Administrative Region's central business district, is usually closed to vehicular traffic every Sunday, and tens of thousands of El Shaddai devotees fill up the space from the legislative building to the posh hotels. (This is rather like closing off the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City every Sunday, for the entire day.)

Brother Mike can also hold a crowd. In his bright and gaudy costumes, worn to make it easier for the throng to mark him, he hold the faithful in rapt attention. He is a master of rhetoric, able to poke fun at himself, able to meet the audience where they're at, able to whip up the crowd to a frenzy. There is an undeniable "connect," to use a slang word that is neither strictly English nor strictly Filipino, between Brother Mike and the El Shaddai faithful.

It is this double mix, of Brother Mike's rapport with his audience and the consistently huge size of the crowds who come out to hear him, that make political players ecstatic with possibility.

In May 1992, Brother Mike telegraphed his support for Fidel Ramos using the rhetoric of stagecraft that his followers knew so well. (It was simplicity itself. He stood, he told Asiaweek, on Ramos' side of the stage.) In May 1998, Brother Mike decided to wait until the last possible moment to signal his preference. Having invited the candidates to speak at an enormous assembly, he then told his candidate of choice, Vice President Joseph Estrada, to use a phrase already hallowed in El Shaddai practice. "*Tiyak 'yon*," meaning "That's for certain," was Brother Mike's shorthand for divine guarantee, or a certainty foreordained by Scripture. Slip the phrase into your speech, Estrada was advised, and the faithful will know you are the one to vote for.

The moment Estrada said those words, the crowd went wild. They understood he was the anointed one.

It is now conventional wisdom to say that Estrada became the country's 13th president with the help of the El Shaddai vote. However, in the light of the results of the Jan. 26, 2001 Pulse Asia survey conducted in Metro Manila, where about a quarter of the respondents said they would be influenced in their choice of senators by the endorsement of Brother Mike, it might be useful to revisit the 1998 election, and reconsider the power of Brother Mike's endorsement.

If the surveys tracking Estrada's candidacy and his performance in office were right, the actor-turned-president enjoyed a solid core of support from about a third of the voting population. This core remained steady through time—a legacy, perhaps, of his enduring popularity as a movie actor, as an underdog senator who voted against the mighty US bases, as a crime-busting vice president, as a close friend of fellow movie superstars Nora Aunor and Fernando Poe Jr.

It would be fair to say that these supporters would have voted for him even without an El Shaddai endorsement. Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say that many El Shaddai devotees already formed part of his regular constituency. In the end, Estrada won 39.59 percent of the votes cast for president (but only 32.07 percent, or about a third of the total number of registered voters).

To test this idea, one need only go one step down, to Brother Mike's choice for vice president. Among the nine candidates, it was Francisco Tatad who ended up saying "*Tiyak 'yon!*" But the Opus Dei stalwart, who in the Ramos years carried the fight against what the Catholic Church calls the contraceptive mentality, ended up a distant fifth. Only 748,830 voters chose him as their vice president, a woeful 2.86 percent of the votes cast for that office. One needs to multiply this number 17 times, to approximate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's winning total of 12,979,328 votes.

What happened? The El Shaddai bloc is variously estimated, but the minimum figure is usually set at two million votes, and the upper limit at eight million. So why the difference in the electoral fortunes of Estrada and Tatad? One likely explanation: A Brother Mike endorsement is the Dutch treat of Philippine politics. You can only get out of it what you bring into it. (The ability to think that somebody else paid for your food when you actually paid your own way requires remarkable powers of self-deception.)

This much seems certain: In May 1998, Brother Mike endorsed Estrada for president, but what he was really doing was preaching to the converted.

John Nery edits a business magazine.

THEY SAID

Replaceable

"Yes, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura has a fixed term. So had former President Joseph Estrada. But that did not prevent the people from deposing the corrupt President."

—Rep. Joker Arroyo on beleaguered Rafael Buenaventura's claim that Malacañang will respect his six-year tenure as Bangko Sentral head

Hot and cool

"You can be hot in your heart but you must stay cool in your head."

—Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid asking his supporters to end their violent protests

Blind justice

"This is the opportunity for the justice system to show that justice is really blind and does not discriminate between the high and mighty and poor."

—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez opposing the suggestion that former President Estrada be allowed to leave the country for an eye operation

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IN DEPTH
LEAH P. MAKABENTA, Editor

COMBATING CORRUPTION

Lessons from Hong Kong's quiet cultural revolution

BY JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.

VIGILANCE has become the battlecry of members of so-called civil society who have now transformed themselves into anti-corruption watchdogs after successfully ousting President Joseph Estrada. Like the dictator who was deposed 15 years ago, the disgraced Estrada is accused of amassing billions of pesos in ill-gotten and unexplained wealth.

The Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino, the coalition which helped oust Ferdinand Marcos in People Power I and Estrada in People Power II, has decided to become "a force of good governance."

Other groups like the Erap Resign Movement, Artista sa Pagbabago, and eLagda have declared that they would hold President Macapagal-Arroyo to her promise to "improve moral standards in government and society, in order to provide a strong foundation for good governance."

"We have learned the lessons from People Power I and II. We should remain vigilant to keep the spirit of People Power alive," said Carol Araullo, a convenor of the Erap Resign Movement.

As they strive to keep the pressure up, they can learn valuable lessons from the experience of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's anti-corruption program was one of the success stories presented at a conference on "Fighting Corruption in the new Millennium" sponsored by the Asian Development Bank in Seoul last December.

As the links between corruption and a country's development become increasingly clear, multilateral lending agencies like the ADB, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are vigorously pushing and helping countries in the region to address corruption problems.

ADB vice president John Lintjer said bluntly that "corruption and lack of good governance" played a determining role in the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

Changing attitudes

But as Lintjer and other conference participants noted, centuries-old attitudes toward corruption in the region have changed and public anger at corruption grown, exemplified in the ignominious fall of Estrada.

Thailand, the epicenter of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-1998, has adopted a new Constitution to bring about transparency, accountability and checks and balances. The new National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) has indicted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra for concealing some of his assets when he was a minister in a previous government.

If Thailand's Constitutional Court upholds the NCCC ruling, Thaksin could be removed and barred from public office for five years.

In Indonesia, the Parliament last month censured President Abdurrahman Wahid for his alleged involvement in two corruption cases.

In South Korea, which jailed two ex-presidents in the decade just past, President Kim Dae Jung has declared "the last war on corruption" and formed an anti-coruption commission.

In China, the justice minister was replaced last December for involvement in graft and other economic crimes.

As the anti-corruption fever spreads and more and more countries are putting in place mechanisms to stamp out corruption, Hong Kong has consistently been rated by international surveys as the second least corrupt place in Asia.

It ranked 16th in last year's corruption perception index of the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI). By contrast, the Philippines, despite its numerous anti-graft laws, was No. 70.

"If you have been to Hong Kong you will see how very different it is from many Asian cities. People are proud of their city because they know it works," Neil Maloney, a former ICAC officer and member of the Hong Kong Royal Police, said at the Seoul conference.

A fact of life

He singled out the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) as one of the most important factors that has allowed Hong Kong to become what it is.

The ICAC was created in 1974 following public indignation over the escape of a senior police officer, Chief Superintendent Peter Godber, who had been arrested on corruption charges. People took to the streets. The police officer was eventually extradited to Hong Kong and served a prison term.

The public outcry prompted Hong Kong's then Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, to appoint a Commission of Inquiry, which recommended that an independent, powerful agency be set up to fight corruption.

Before the ICAC was created, graft in Hong Kong was ubiquitous and largely accepted as a fact of life. Corruption flourished as the backdoor route to getting things done. Bribes to public officials, especially the police, and secret commissions in the private sector were considered customary practice. Almost everyone suffered but the Hong Kong government seemed powerless to do anything.

Three-pronged attack

To check the motivation and opportunity that lead to corruption, Hong Kong adopted three initiatives:

- Creation of a strong deterrent through vigorous enforcement activities to demonstrate that corruption is a high-risk crime;
- Implementation of system changes at the institutional and organizational level to ensure that corruption opportunities are minimized; and
- Transformation of social values and behavioral patterns to reinforce the principles of justice, fairness and transparency and to reduce the motivation for corruption.

The ICAC then proceeded to adopt a "three-pronged attack"—investigation, education and prevention.

The agency's organizational structure is built around these functions and is composed of three departments.

The Operations Department, the largest with more than 750 staff members, handles investigation and puts the corrupt behind bars.

The Corruption Prevention Department plugs corruption loopholes in systems and procedures. It hands out advice about corruption opportunities to government departments and the private sector when requested to do so.

Winning hearts and minds

The Community Relations Department is tasked with changing public attitudes toward corruption and spreads the word about its evils.

Like a highly focused manager, the ICAC has committed to achieving performance standards. It will respond to a report of corruption within 48 hours; to a request for corruption prevention advice within two working days; and to a request for anti-corruption education or information within two working days.

The key to Hong Kong's success in fighting corruption is winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Catherine Chui, ICAC assistant director for community relations, said the ICAC has achieved nothing less than a quiet revolution in changing public attitudes towards corruption in Hong Kong.

"There has been a complete change in our culture, from tolerance of corruption to clear rejection. We now have an honest and efficient police force whom people can turn to and a clean and responsive civil service," Chui enthused.

An opinion poll conducted by the ICAC last year showed that 84 percent of Hong Kong residents did not tolerate corruption. And 99 percent said the ICAC deserved their support.

Because of the change in attitude, more than 90 percent of corruption reports directly come from the public. Twenty-six years ago, only 30 percent of the complainants who reported to the ICAC were willing to identify themselves. Last year, almost 70 percent said they would do so.

Maloney, a former head of the Operations Department's Intelligence Unit, listed the lessons that could be drawn from the Hong Kong experience.

The first prerequisite for effectively controlling corruption is the acknowledgement that clean government is the best guarantee of political stability, economic growth and social development.

Maloney said a willingness to act must then be accompanied by determination, persistence and the political will to succeed, despite possible interference from those whose interests may be threatened.

The ICAC was fortunate in that from the outset it was given a clear mandate and the necessary resources to get on with the task.

The ICAC was set apart from the civil service. Its Commissioner is responsible only to the Chief Executive. His independence is enshrined in the Basic Law, which functions as Hong Kong's constitution.

The financial resources available to the ICAC ensure that it has a team of dedicated and professional staff, specially trained in investigating corruption and committed to fighting it.

Second, without community support and involvement, a first-class investigative agency feared by all may still lose the war against corruption. Unlike some crimes, corruption is not easy to detect. Members of the community must be willing to come forward and report it.

Special powers

Having been created out of public demand, the ICAC has remained an organization for the people. Through the Community Relations Department, it makes sure that the people do not forget the bad old days and that they know where the line is drawn.

The third ingredient for success is an effective legislative framework, according to Maloney.

Corruption is difficult to investigate and to prove because it is secretive and conspiratorial. Very often only the accomplices are in the know. With the recent developments in information technology and in international financial services, there has been a much greater sophistication in hiding corrupt assets.

An anti-corruption agency needs special powers to achieve results. For example, under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, the ICAC may examine bank accounts and business and private documents.

Under certain circumstances, the ICAC may require suspects to provide details of their assets, and whether their travel documents can be seized.

At the same time, the agency's considerable powers has to be balanced by an effective monitoring system. Every aspect of work comes under the scrutiny of an advisory committee consisting of private citizens and senior officials.

An independent Complaints Committee deals with all complaints received against the ICAC and individual staff members.

Adequate pay

A comprehensive strategy must be anchored on a public service which is fairly and adequately remunerated, where appointments are made on the basis of merit.

Maloney cited the benefits of an amnesty program for offenders. When the ICAC set its sights on the police force in 1977, 2,000 police officers marched on its headquarters threatening violence. Despite misgivings from the ICAC, the Hong Kong Governor granted amnesty for past corruption offenses. The amnesty defused the situation and gave corrupt officers the opportunity to come clean.

"Many did so. Those that did not, to a large extent, were ostracized," said Maloney.

The ICAC story is not lost on President Macapagal-Arroyo. Just before she took power, she said that she favored the putting up of an anti-corruption body modeled after the ICAC.

Two weeks ago, she revived the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption, which Estrada had largely ignored. Eufemio Domingo, the head of the PCAGC, has been tasked with designing an anti-corruption program to be funded by the World Bank.

Even as the Macapagal administration stirs itself to come up with an anti-corruption program, other countries are already putting in place their own anti-corruption watchdogs patterned after the ICAC. Australia's New South Wales state government has even copied the name, the titles and the legislation that created the ICAC.

> The links between corruption and a country's development have become increasingly clear. Experts say corruption and lack of good governance played a determining role in the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Only education will change society

HOW did the ICAC manage to get such strong support from the Hong Kong community? It begins with the commission's education program that reaches not only young children in kindergarten but also graduating university students.

Through the Community Relations Department, a whole generation of Hong Kong people have been brought up with the concept of a corruption-free society.

"In the short term, enforcement action rams home that message, but in the long term only education will change society," said Neil Maloney.

The CRD communicates the anti-corruption message through the media and through face-to-face contacts.

A fundamental approach to public education against corruption was to help young people form positive attitudes and honest habits.

Through effective moral education programs, the young people are able to develop an inner conviction that corruption is evil and totally unacceptable.

"The hope is that, in time, fighting corruption will rely less on external controls and deterrents and more on self-discipline and self-motivation toward high ethical values in belief and behavior," said Chui.

CRD has formulated a school program to reach children and young adults from age 6 to 22. Hong Kong provides nine years of free and compulsory education.

ICAC staff sit on various curriculum development committees of the education department. It also liases with textbook publishers and writers to encourage them to include ICAC elements in language subjects.

Besides including ICAC messages in the primary and secondary school curricula, the ICAC's School Education Program extends to all universities to help would-be professionals and managers develop a strong sense of ethics. Priority is given to students in the "professional" and business-related faculties.

All universities are urged to include at least one ethics module in a mandatory course for first-year students. Instead of preaching values, the emphasis of the program is to equip students with the skills to analyze and make the right decision when faced with ethical dilemmas. ***Juan V. Sarmiento***

The WORLD
MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Calls for Mori to quit as PM mounts

TOKYO—Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori is nearly out of time.

Support in his party is drying up fast. The opposition is readying a no-confidence vote against him—his second. Two municipal councils have passed resolutions calling for him to resign.

While Mori's demise is widely expected, a major question remains unanswered: What toll will the debacle of his tenure exact on the party that has ruled Japan for most of the postwar era?

Some predict Mori's Liberal Democratic Party—already damaged by a string of scandals and a slumping economy—will pay dearly for the political crisis.

"The end is near," said Jiro Yamaguchi, politics specialist at Hokkaido University. "They have lost the ability to govern and have lost the ability to sustain an administration."

The LDP has been through countless scandals and crises since it took power in the mid-1950s. With the exception of a 10-month period in 1993-94, the party has ruled since, either single-handedly or in coalition.

Despite the current troubles, the party can still count on factors that have helped it in the past: support in the countryside, a firm grip on vote-winning pork-barrel projects and a chronically weak opposition.

But the past year has been particularly harsh.

Mori's rule began with criticism of the secretive way party bosses chose him in April 2000 to replace Keizo Obuchi, who suffered a fatal stroke.

MORI

Since then, the premier has been at the center of several embarrassing scandals, ranging from allegations of personal misconduct to remarks recalling the emperor-worship of pre-1945 Japanese militarism.

Mori now faces criticism for continuing to play golf after learning that a US submarine collided with a Japanese fishing boat, and his government's failure to salvage the weak economy.

The government got a breather on Friday, when opposition parties decided to delay submission of a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

With the LDP controlling a majority in the lower house, Mori survived such a vote in November and the next was also expected to fail.

But with support ratings dropping below 10 percent and figures in his own party jockeying to choose a successor, time is clearly running out.

"The people of this nation now cast an eye as cold as ice on the administration of Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori," the national Yomiuri newspaper said in an editorial.

Mori is not the LDP's only problem. The main index on the Tokyo stock market hit a 15-year low Friday after the government came out with a barrage of bad economic news: unemployment stuck at a record-high 4.9 percent, anemic consumer spending and signs of deflation in Tokyo.

The party is also suffering from a deep internal malaise.

Analysts attribute Mori's ability to stay in power so long to a lack of suitable successors in a party increasingly absorbed with factional politics at the expense of developing policies.

"None of them can send the message that by replacing Mori, something has changed," said Masumi Ishikawa of Tokyo's Obirin University. "And Mori knows that—that's why he hasn't resigned."

The question is whether the floundering at the top and rising voter discontent will translate into damaging LDP losses in upper house elections in July. The LDP lacks a majority and needs cooperation from two coalition partners to keep control of the chamber. *AP*

Nationalists reject Fiji court ruling

SUVA, Fiji—An influential grouping of hardline Fijian nationalist parties said Saturday they will not accept a court ruling dismissing the nation's interim government and restoring its multiracial 1997 constitution.

Comprising major political parties linked to Fiji's powerful tribal chiefs, the Fiji Forum said it will not accept reinstatement of Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry's coalition government, which was ousted last year in a nationalist coup.

Meanwhile, Chaudhry due to arrive late Saturday in Fiji said Friday he wants to "reclaim the people's mandate."

Forum Chair Esira Rabuno said indigenous Fijians would not accept a judgment that threatens their rights.

"With us Fijians, we only recognize the Great Council of Chiefs," he said. "The Council will have the last say... if not, then the country will continue to have problems."

On Thursday, five foreign judges sitting as Fiji's Court of Appeal ruled that the interim government of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase was illegal and ordered President Ratu Josefa Iloilo to recall parliament.

Qarase's indigenous Fijian-dominated administration was installed by the military after failed businessman George Speight led the May 19 coup that toppled Chaudhry, Fiji's first ethnic Indian prime minister.

Qarase and Iloilo have said they will abide by the Court's decision, and have convened a Cabinet meeting for Tuesday to discuss the interim government's response. Iloilo has called a meeting of the Great Council of Chiefs for Thursday to consult with them.

The tribal chiefs could refuse to accept the court's decision, leading to a new political impasse and renewed instability.

Ethnic Indians, mainly descendants of indentured laborers brought to the country to work on sugar plantations, make up 44 percent of the population while indigenous Fijians account for about 51 percent. *AP*

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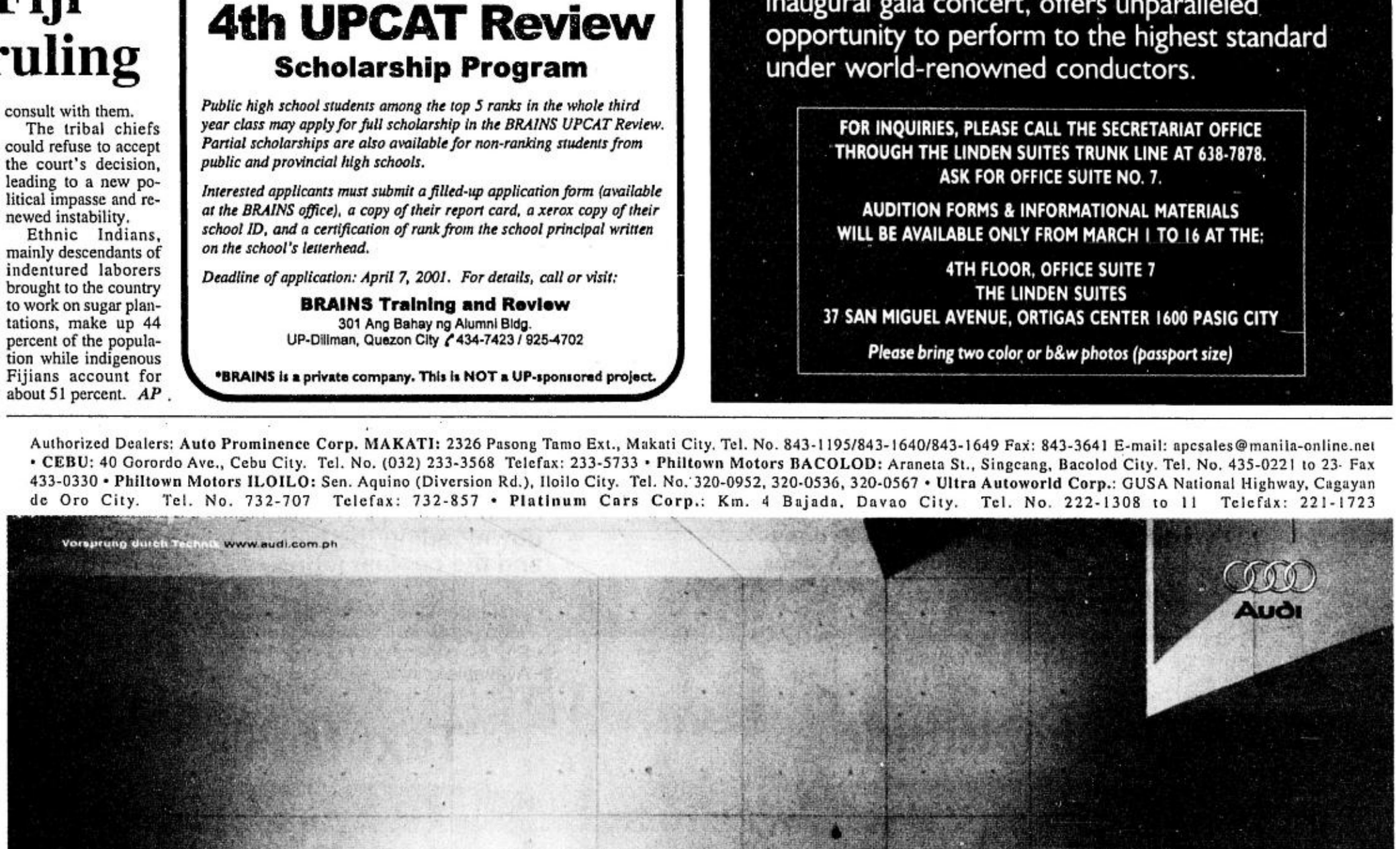

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Taliban troops use explosives to destroy 2 old Buddha statues

ISLAMABAD—Taliban troops assembled explosives Friday to demolish two giant, ancient statues of Buddha as the UN cultural agency sent an envoy to try to dissuade the ruling Islamic militia, which plans to destroy every statue in Afghanistan.

The two Buddhas, 52.5 and 36 meters tall, are hewn out of the side of a mountain in Bamiyan and would need heavy explosives to destroy. Afghanistan's hardline leaders have deemed them and all other statues in the country idolatrous.

"The Buddhas in Bamiyan were not touched today, but preparations are being made," said Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan.

As many Muslims expressed fears the destruction was embarrassing Islam, the Taliban's closest ally—Pakistan—pleaded with them to spare the statues.

"The government of Pakistan joins all nations in appealing to the Taliban government to reconsider and rescind the reported decision regarding the statues of lord Buddha," Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said in a statement.

"Respect for other religions and for their beliefs is enjoined upon Muslims," he said.

A day after the Taliban announced they had ordered soldiers to begin purging the country of all statues, Unesco sent a special envoy to negotiate with Taliban leaders.

"Words fail me to describe adequately my feelings of consternation and powerlessness as I see the reports of the irreversible damage that is being done to Afghanistan's exceptional cultural heritage," Koichiro Matsuura, director general of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said in Paris on Friday.

Already damaged by tank fire and rocket launchers, the giant statues of Buddha were carved in the third and fifth centuries, relics of Afghanistan's pre-Islamic past. The 51-meter statue is thought to be thought to be the world's tallest of a Buddha standing rather than sitting. It was not known how many of the thousands of other, smaller Buddhist statues in the country have been destroyed since Thursday.

The Taliban, which rule about 95 percent of Afghanistan, espouse a harsh brand of Islam that forces women to wear the all-encompassing burqa, bars them from working outside the home and demands men wear beards and pray in the mosque. *AP*

More settlers flee bloody Dayak wrath

PALANGKARAYA, Indonesia—About 6,000 Madurese settlers were boarding navy ships Saturday to flee a bloody rampage by Dayak natives on Indonesia's half of Borneo island.

Authorities promised the refugees will be able to return, but the fear left behind by the massacres made that scenario seem unlikely.

The violence that began two weeks ago left more than 450 Madurese settlers dead in Borneo's Central Kalimantan province, where Dayak natives beheaded and hacked their victims to death in a terror campaign to drive Madurese from the area.

Two ships carrying 7,000 refugees departed the Central Kalimantan town of Sampit on Friday and were scheduled to arrive in Surabaya, in East Java, late on Saturday. An additional two warships were set to depart Sampit Saturday carrying 6,000 refugees, said Sampit district head M. Wahyudi Anwar.

"The government will do all it can to bring the settlers back to Sampit as soon as possible but for now our priority is their safety," Anwar said.

The military escorted about 500 Madurese from an Army base outside of Sampit to the main refugee camp in the town. They had spent six days hiding in the jungle before being rescued by the armed forces earlier this week.

The Dayak campaign to rid Central Kalimantan province of Madurese has largely succeeded, with an estimated 50,000 people having been driven from their homes. Several thousand Madurese refugees were still languishing in a disease-infested camp in Sampit Saturday, waiting for ships to evacuate them.

The US government announced Saturday it is providing 30 tons of food to 15,000 Madurese children under the age of five, "the age group most vulnerable to malnutrition and disease," according to a US Embassy statement. The aid will supplement food supplied by the Indonesian Red Cross.

Dr. Heru Ariyadi, Chief of the Bangkalan Hospital in Surabaya, where many of the refugees are being shipped, said the refugees were suffering diarrhea and other stomach problems but "the shock and depression would take longer to heal." *AP*

New data show sub's ill-fated course reversal

HONOLULU—The submerged USS Greeneville raced past the slow-moving Japanese fishing vessel Ehime Maru before a fateful course reversal that ended in their deadly collision, according to newly released information.

It was the first disclosure of the submarine's movements in the critical 10 minutes leading up to the Feb. 9 collision that sank the Ehime Maru while a group of Japanese high school students on board were learning how to fish. Of the 35 on board, nine people, including four students, are missing and presumed dead.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which is conducting an investigation of the accident 14 km off Honolulu, on Friday released the information, which shows the surface and subsurface movements of the two vessels.

The Navy is scheduled to open hearings into the accident Monday at Pearl Harbor, focusing on the actions of the Greenevilles officers.

Navy lawyers on Friday were reviewing a request from attorneys for submarine Cmdr. Scott Waddle seeking "testimonial immunity" for Waddle during next week's hearings.

Testimonial immunity would prevent military lawyers from prosecuting Waddle based upon anything he says during the investigative hearing, according to military legal expert Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice in Washington, D.C. However, Waddle still could face prosecution based upon the testimony of others.

Lawyers for Adm. Thomas Fargo, who convened the hearings, were reviewing the request. Waddle's attorneys did not return messages from The Associated Press.

The Navy had no comment on the information released by the NTSB, said Jon Yoshishige, a spokesperson for the Pacific Fleet. He said the Navy is continuing to cooperate fully with the NTSB's investigation. *AP*

THE FLIGHT CONTINUES REUTERS

Mozambique residents wade through flood water toward an Army helicopter (not shown) in the central district of Cocorico. Foreign relief supplies started pouring into Mozambique since March 3 as the country's sole military helicopter battled to pluck families from rising flood waters fed by overflowing reservoirs.

Fujimori ordered to appear in court to answer charges

LIMA—A judge on Friday ordered disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori to appear in court to answer charges of dereliction of duty and abandonment of office or face arrest.

Court spokesperson Andiolo Zevallos said Fujimori, who was declared morally unfit for office after he fled to Japan in November, would have three opportunities to obey the order from Judge Miguel Castaneda before an arrest warrant was issued.

It was not immediately clear what court date was set.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, has claimed Japanese citizenship and has said he has no intention of returning to face allegations against him. He left Peru amid mounting corruption scandals surrounding his security adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos, who remains a fugitive in hiding.

Japan and Peru have no extradition treaty. Japanese Justice Minister Masahiko Komura told reporters Friday in Tokyo that his government would not hand Fujimori over to Peru if asked to do so because Japanese law does not permit deportation of its nationals.

But Peru Justice Minister Diego Garcia Sayan responded later that under international law Fujimori's Peruvian nationality takes legal precedent over any claim he might have to Japanese citizenship.

Peru's attorney general filed the abandonment and dereliction of duty charges Wednesday, the first criminal complaints against Fujimori.

Congress approved the charges Feb. 23, voting to prohibit Fujimori from holding future public office for 10 years.

Meanwhile, Congressman Pedro Morales, head of a committee investigating military spending over the last decade said Friday that Fujimori abused his authority by signing secret spending decrees that paid for shady arms deals allegedly brokered Montesinos and his cronies.

He said it has yet to be determined whether the ex-president and a host of former ministers bear criminal responsibility.

Commission members issued a preliminary report to the legislature late Thursday and said they would subpoena Fujimori and Montesinos. *AP*

Israel picks ex-general as its defense minister

JERUSALEM—Fears of a worsening Israeli-Palestinian conflict grew Friday when a hardline former general was elected Israel's defense minister and extreme-right groups were brought into the new government, as two Palestinian children and a mentally ill vagrant fell to Israeli bullets.

In the first time a convention has designated members of Israel's Cabinet, Labor party members gathered in Tel Aviv to select the eight ministers hawkish Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon had promised them for joining the unity government.

The most competitive vote was for the powerful defense ministry, which went to Binyamin Ben Eliezer, a 64-year-old former general and Barak's communications minister, who is considered to be as far right on the peace process as the Labor party goes.

Ben Eliezer immediately announced there "must be new rules in the game" with the Palestinians, and called the death Thursday of an Israeli in a northern Israel bomb explosion "intolerable," as authorities stepped up security around the country for fear of new attacks.

For the post of foreign minister, Labor rubber-stamped the only candidate, former premier and Nobel peace prize winner Shimon Peres, a strong backer of the national unity coalition who nonetheless said he would quit if the government gives up on the Oslo peace accords on Palestinian sovereignty.

Violence continued Friday in the occupied territories, where Israeli troops killed a 9-year-old boy when they opened heavy caliber machinegun fire on a group of children playing with cap guns, medical officials and witnesses said.

Ubey Darraj was dead on arrival at a hospital after suffering a bullet wound in the chest. Witnesses said the boy was in his family's apartment at the time and that the soldiers, stationed at a nearby Jewish settlement, had fired when they spotted the children with cap guns playing underneath the building. *AFP*

Europe in the throes of foot-and-mouth scare

BRUSSELS—The foot-and-mouth disease scare raced eastward Friday when Russia joined Europe in throwing up defenses to block the dreaded animal virus and Austrians were advised to stay away from Britain.

The highly contagious disease on Friday had spread throughout Britain, with three new outbreaks reported for a total of at least 36, including Northern Ireland.

After the first case was confirmed in Northern Ireland on Thursday, the neighboring Irish Republic found itself in the frontline of the battle to stave off the highly contagious "subtype O" Asian strain of the virus.

Dublin went on a war footing.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, calling the disease a "once-in-a-generation" threat to Ireland, dispatched more than 1,000 troops and police to border crossings from the north, and ports and airports, to guard against the disease spreading.

Even as Britain incinerated entire herds of livestock exposed to the disease, fears grew in the rest of Europe that animals may already have been contaminated by the rampant infection.

But as of Friday, no foot-and-mouth disease cases had been reported outside Britain.

Russia slapped a blanket ban on all cattle and meat product imports from Britain, having already tightened control of meat imports from a number of other European counties through which British products may have transited.

The Austrian government advised its nationals not to travel to Britain "unless absolutely necessary," until the current wave of disease has cleared up.

Air travelers arriving from Britain were made to tread over disinfectant carpets at the Vienna airport.

Norwegian deputies meanwhile demanded that Nato exercises involving British troops be cancelled as a precaution.

"It is completely irresponsible for 300 British soldiers to arrive in an agricultural region where there are many farms in close proximity," said a deputy for the western Norwegian region of Soer-Troendelag, quoted by the NTB news agency.

The British troops were set to be deployed on Monday for three weeks. *AFP*

Advertisers use rebel image to sell and promote Mexico

MEXICO CITY—Media-savvy Zapatista leader Subcomandante Marcos, who has wooed the world with his poetic Internet communiques, is becoming possibly the most marketable masked man on the planet.

Advertisers are using the image of the anti-capitalist rebel to sell furniture, appliances—and perhaps most appropriately, courses in public relations.

A Marcos imitator smoking a pipe sells furniture and appliances on TV commercials for the Mexican retail chain Viana, negotiating unbeatable prices for the masses.

A magazine ad for a public relations school pictures the ski-masked guerrilla fighter wearing a bandolier, a cellphone and a microphone headset.

The ad asks: "Why does he have so much power? A) Because of his guns? B) Because of his computer? C) Because of his public image? Answer: His public image."

A billboard for a home-furnishing store reads: "We sell everything from marcos to chapas," a play on words meaning from picture frames to door locks—but also from Marcos to Chiapas, the southern state where the rebellion occurred.

Mexico's rival TV networks, Televisa and TV Azteca, have even joined forces to promote a "Concert for Peace" on Saturday night, featuring rival rock bands Mana and Los Jaguares. Peace, however, has a price: Tickets run from $5 to $25.

Two-week 'Zapatour'

Critics fear the situation may only get worse as an Indian rebel caravan carrying Marcos and 23 commanders in a motorized march—dubbed the "Zapatour" by local newspapers—arrives March 11 in Mexico City, home to some 20 million consumers.

The two-week trip is the first time Marcos has emerged publicly from Chiapas since the Zapatistas launched their revolt for Indian rights on Jan. 1, 1994. The caravan was expected to pass through 12 states on the way to Mexico City, where the Zapatistas will lobby for passage of an Indian rights bill in Congress.

"Nowadays, everyone says they are a Zapatista because it's good for business," said a disgusted rebel supporter, Julio Velasco, 45.

But even Velasco has gotten in on the action. On a recent afternoon, he was one of half a dozen hawkers on Mexico City's main plaza doing a brisk business selling T-shirts, photos, posters and books of Marcos.

"This is different," said Velasco, wearing a Lenin button, reading a Fidel Castro essay and holding a wad of cash. "We believe in what we are selling. Those others are rats who've always been part of the system."

A ZAPATISTA sympathizer displays a poster welcoming the masked guerrilla leader at Mexico City's Zocalo Plaza. Images of the Zapatista leader have been widely used in marketing products in advance of the March 11 arrival of the rebel convoy. AP

Analysts attribute the Marcos publicity fervor to the Mexican government's new attitude toward the rebels under President Vicente Fox, whose election last year ended seven decades of rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party. Fox has made ending the conflict a top priority and said he welcomes the march as a "bridge for peace."

Che Guevara was first

Marcos is not the first revolutionary to draw sales. Even years after his death, vendors continue to sell key chains, T-shirts and posters featuring Latin America's most famous anti-capitalist, Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

And while Marcos has long received support outside the country (Oliver Stone missed the 1996 Oscars to meet with him), Mexico's mainstream society, and especially businesses, had steered clear of any connection, fearful it would alienate them from the former government, which had dubbed Marcos an enemy of the state.

Despite the TV and magazine ads and billboards, Marcos has remained silent on the matter as businesses continue to use his image without permission. In a quirk in Mexican law, they can continue to do so until he copyrights his image—something that would require him to reveal his identity. The Zapatistas' information center declined comment.

The silence, however, doesn't mean they agree: Shortly after the uprising, Marcos protested sales of woven Zapatista dolls by local Indians, saying the dolls disrespected fallen rebels. More than 100 Zapatistas died in the 12-day battle with the government.

He later dropped the issue when it became clear most of the people buying the dolls supported the movement.

In 1995, Benetton asked Marcos to appear in one of their advertisements. But the rebel leader never responded to the offer, a company spokesperson said.

Essence of march

"I'm sure he knows about these ads," said Miguel Acosta, a Mexican pop culture expert. "But I think he's choosing to ignore them so it will not divert attention away from the essence of the march—respect for Indians who are facing losing their culture in a globalized world."

It's a dilemma that Marcos, who has waged more of a propaganda war than a military one, has confronted since the beginning. But now the stakes are higher and the battleground more difficult with Marcos meeting an equally powerful charmer of the masses: Mexico's cowboy-boot wearing president.

"With the two of them, it's just turned into a big show," said Jose Alfredo Zamora, 21, wearing a newly bought Marcos T-shirt. "At this point, it just feels like a rock star is coming. I think that's why so many are buying T-shirts." *AP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

NPAs own ambush of Japanese eng'rs

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The New People's Army (NPA) has claimed responsibility for the ambush of the three Japanese engineers working on the multibillion South Coastal Road (SCR) in this city.

Silvino "Ka Bino" Clamucha, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA in Central Visayas, told radio station dyAB yesterday that the attack was meant to send a message to the Japanese-owned TOA Construction and the Japanese government to stop the SCR and the South Reclamation Project.

"There was no order to kill the six Japanese engineers including their drivers. The ambush was just to send a message that we strongly oppose the projects," he said in Cebuano.

If their message would be ignored, Clamucha said they would make another move "so our opposition to the projects would be heard."

The TOA Construction is the contractor of the P7-billion road project that covers 11.85 kilometers of coastal road from Barangay Ermita in Cebu City to Talisay City.

The SCR's component, the 302-hectare SRP, is undertaken by the city government, which is funded by Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

The reclamation project covers the costal barangays of Alaska Mambaling, Inayawan and Basak in Cebu City and a portion of Talisay City.

Clamucha told dyAB that the two projects were detrimental to the environment and had caused many fishermen to lose their livelihood.

He did not elaborate. But Clamucha was apparently referring to the complaint of about 300 fishermen of the affected coastal villages that they could no longer fish and gather shells in their area because their fishing ground had been reclaimed.

Engineers Harutushi Usui, Hironobu Takeuchi and Yoshinobu Fukushima were on their way home at past 8 p.m. on Feb. 22 when three armed men fired at their blue Isuzu Highlander, just a few meters from their staff house at St. Jude Acres Subdivision in Barangay Bulacao.

The three were not hurt. Their driver, Felix Go Jr., suffered minor cuts from fragments of the vehicle's broken windshield.

A second vehicle carrying their coworkers Tashiniko Amano, Kyota Norizoki and Takayashu Koga was spared from the ambush as it immediately turned back after the firing started.

Police officials downplayed the NPA's alleged involvement in the ambush.

While he assured the safety of TOA engineers in Cebu City, Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusilero, police director for Central Visayas, had reservations on Clamucha's claim.

He said Clamucha might just be riding on the report about the ambush for propaganda purposes.

Supt. Ronald Roderos, Cebu City police director, said there was no assurance that the man interviewed by dyAB was indeed Clamucha.

But, he added, his investigators were already verifying the alleged involvement of the NPA in the ambush.

Supt. Juan Mabugat, Criminal Investigation and Detection Office chief for Central Visayas, said there was no evidence to prove that the NPA had a hand in the ambush.

Major Gen. Julius Javier, newly installed Visayas Command chief, said they would look into the matter because Clamucha's claim must be investigated.

Major Michael Manquiquis, Viscom spokesperson, said if the report was true, TOA Construction might have refused to give revolutionary taxes to the NPA.

He recalled that the NPA burned the heavy equipment of a Japanese firm in Bohol after the company failed to pay taxes to the communist group.

Suit filed over cement plant closure

TUBA, Benguet—The owner of a construction firm here sued local officials for ordering the closure of a cement batching plant in Barangay Poblacion here.

In a complaint before the regional trial court, William Go, owner of the Goldrich Construction Co., said government projects were delayed following a resolution of the municipal council directing the plant's closure due to alleged health and environmental hazards.

Go said the government contracted him to build at least six roads in Baguio City and Benguet.

He claimed that he was denied due process when town officials passed Resolution No. 316-2000, saying that the plant is located in a populated village.

Judge Benigno Galacgac issued a temporary restraining order against Tuba officials asking them to cease and desist from implementing the resolution.

Local officials said the plant is a "nuisance" as it has been polluting the environment and causing health risks among local residents.

Earlier, residents petitioned the local government to close the plant due to air and noise pollution.

Toxic wastes such as used oil also emanated from the plant and reached the river flowing through the barangay causing death to marine life, the residents said.

Town officials said these drastic environmental effects caused by the plant is a violation of Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990.

The law prohibits the indiscriminate disposal of used oil and industrial lubricants that pollute water sources.

Local officials ordered the closure of the plant as they claimed that Go never paid the town any taxes and after it was found violating seven conditions of the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Aug. 19, 1998.

The violations include:

- Batching operations done beyond the allowed 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. limit;
- Improper collection and disposal of solid wastes especially during operation;
- Failure to submit quarterly report on feedback from the affected community their corresponding action, concrete mix production, output, recycling of cement residue; and
- Failure to submit a detailed engineering design and failure to put up an environmental monitoring fund as well as an environmental guarantee fund.

The DENR notified Go about these violations on Oct. 13, 2000 but nothing has been done about these yet, town officials said.

However, Go said he has been paying his taxes to the Benguet provincial government and was issued a permit to operate the plant located in his 14,000-square meter property along Marcos Highway.

On the other hand, officials said he was not issued a business permit for this year.

Joya Santos-Doctor, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly over the Eastern section.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 25° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 34° Lo 22°
Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 22°	Tagaytay Hi 31° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 26°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 35° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 31° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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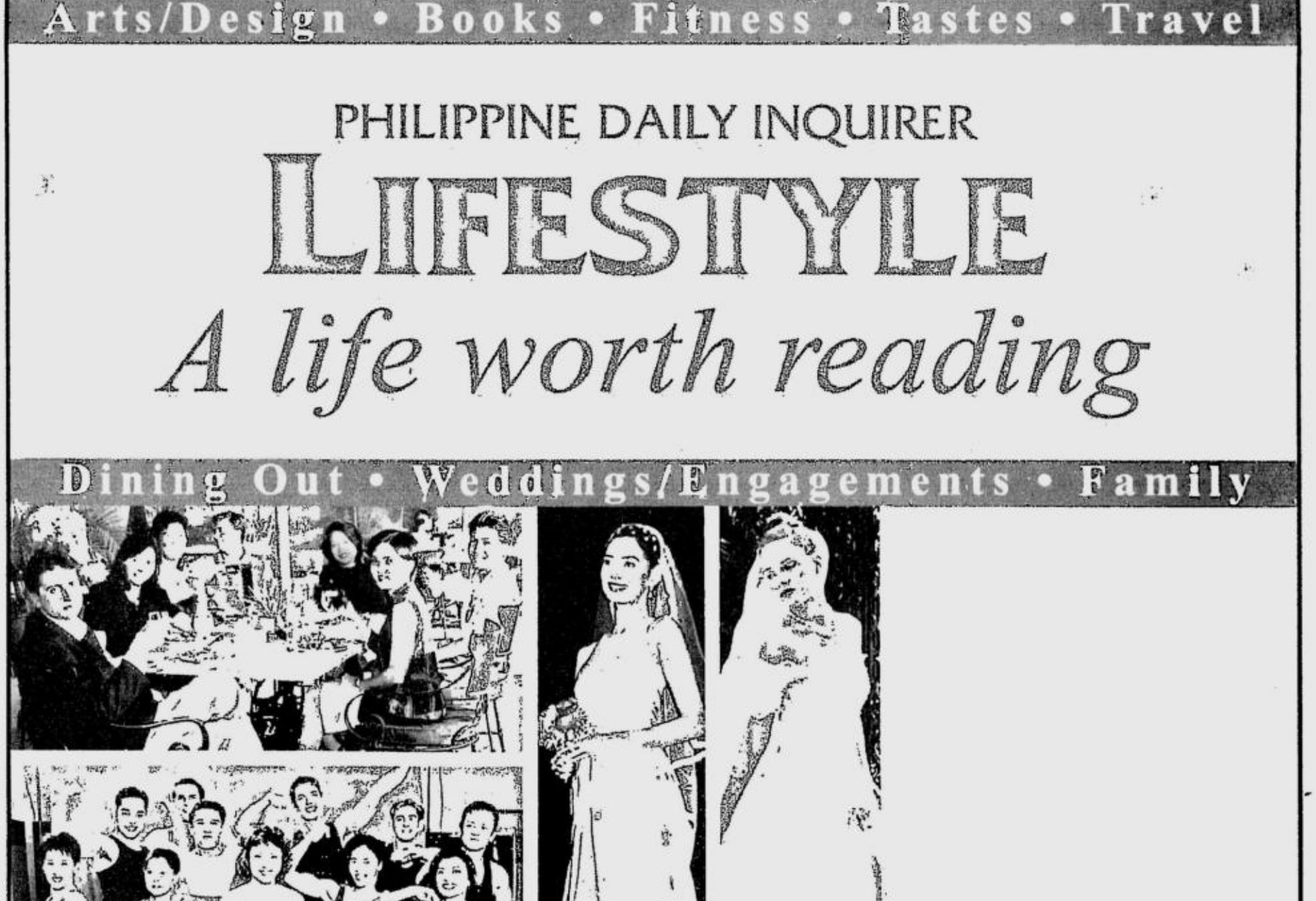

C. Visayas cop chief denies backing Ping

CEBU CITY—Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusilero, police director of Central Visayas, denied allegations that he gave support to and campaigned for senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson, his former boss and *mistah* at the Philippine Military Academy.

"Lacson had not even set foot in Cebu so how could they allege that I was providing security or any support (to Lacson)," he told the INQUIRER Friday.

He insisted that the police under in his command have already pledged their support to the Macapagal administration and are willing to sacrifice their lives to preserve peace and order.

Fusilero said the last time he and Lacson talked was on Jan. 19 when Fusilero asked if they would extend support to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal.

Fusilero called Lacson on the telephone, about 30 minutes before Lacson, then Philippine National Police chief, went on air to announce he was also withdrawing support from Estrada.

The next day Estrada and his family left Malacañang Palace and Ms Macapagal was sworn in as the country's 14th president.

Fusilero said he welcomed any investigation because it would be an opportunity for him to explain his side and for the truth to come out.

Fusilero said he does not have to provide Lacson with security personnel because having bodyguards is among the privileges of retired general.

"Besides I know General Lacson as . . . one who does not demand attention or somebody to take care of him. He moves along by himself," he added.

But, he said he would provide security to Lacson if Lacson asked for it.

Fusilero said they would grant requests for security to any candidate. "It is embarrassing if something happens to the candidates while they are here," he added.

Fusilero and Lacson belong to PMA Class 1971. He said Lacson did not attend their homecoming in Baguio City last month. ***Roger Paller, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Bets dangle cash, phones to voters

MARAWI CITY—Cash or cell phones anyone?

Voters in at least two towns in Lanao del Sur are being wooed by mayoral candidates with promises of P1,500, P3,000 and P5,000 plus cell phones to vote for them.

Lawyer Datusalangit Macalawa, provincial election supervisor and election officer of Marawi City, however, said the reports have not been confirmed.

But Macalawa acknowledged that "vote-buying is done in Lanao secretly and that the (lowest) price is P 1,500 per voter."

Reports said a partial payment of P1,000 had already been given to voters to ensure the victory of the two candidates.

Lawyer Ranao Datudacula, professor of election laws at the Mindanao State University's College of Law, told the INQUIRER, "P1,000 is the minimum price here in Lanao and the maximum is 'name your price.'"

Datudacula added that "usually, national candidates, including senatorial bets, bid for the price of voters. The lowest bid, he said, is P50,000 and the highest so far was P200,000, depending on the number of votes that will be gathered per municipality."

"During the counting, canvassers are paid P100 per vote added and P200 per deducted vote," he said.

Lawyer Basari Mapupuno, dean of the MSU's College of Law said "the recent election's *dagdag-bawas* that happened in Lanao del Sur was when then senatorial candidate Tessie Oreta poured money against Obet Pagdanganan and Nikki Coseteng as against Mitra."

Oreta and Coseteng could not be reached for comment, but Pagdanganan has filed an election protest against Oreta for alleged fraud. ***Violeta Gloria, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

MOST VICTIMS KIDS

Measles outbreak kills 50 Mangyans

CALAPAN CITY—An outbreak of measles in late January resulted in the deaths of at least 50 Mangyans, mostly children with ages 1-14, a Protestant Church-sponsored nongovernment organization (NGO) revealed yesterday. Gadiel Cristalino, project coordinator of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines' (UCCP) Mangyan Integrated Development Program (MIDP), said the victims came from 26 settlements of the pipe-smoking Bangon tribe inhabiting the remote sitios of Barangays Hagan, Lisap and Batangan, all in Bongabong town, some 100 km south of this capital city. Cristalino said more Mangyans in Sitios Palafa and Guiniang in Barangay Lisap had been afflicted with measles, a highly contagious disease that strikes children.

He, however, added that these areas could only be reached after a day's walk.

According to him, the MIDP sent on Feb. 9-11 a medical group to administer to the sick and to find out the extent of the outbreak.

Except for some Mangyans who were brought to the Bongabong Municipal Hospital and the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital, the sick Bangons just left their settlements and retreated further into the forest "to escape" from the disease. "These Mangyans are not used to the hospitals. They had (a) bad experience with hospital personnel who discriminated (against) them," added Cristalino. A second medical group, composed of seven doctors and one nutritionist, went to the affected area on Feb. 24 and stayed there until Feb. 28.

More than 100 Mangyans were treated. The group also counted four deaths during their stay there. Dr. Aristeo Baldos, Oriental Mindoro provincial health officer, acknowledged the measles outbreak and the number of fatalities but said the spread of the disease had been "put under control." "It was put under control during the last week of January," he told the INQUIRER by telephone. He added that he had advised MIDP workers to bring down the remaining sick Mangyans to hospitals for proper treatment.

"They need hospitalization. They need active treatment," Baldos said.

He explained that this approach is better than conducting medical missions. "It is hard to bring medical supplies and equipment to the area as remote as those areas in Bongabong," he said. "We can better manage the patients here." Baldos said the outbreak might be attributed to the Mangyans' refusal to be vaccinated.

During the Department of Health's vaccination campaign under then health secretary now Sen. Juan Flavier, the Mangyans literally escaped from health workers who were administering the vaccines. "These Mangyans were so elusive," he said, referring to the Bangons, acknowledged as the most backward among the seven Mangyan tribes on Mindoro Island. Contacted by telephone, Bongabong Mayor Alex Enriquez said he had launched three medical missions in the affected areas and provided medicines to the Mangyans. He said local hospital treated more than 20 Mangyans afflicted with measles in February.

The last four patients were released only last Monday. "We are now conducting preventive measures to contain the spread of measles. We have dispatched our health workers to the area and the neighboring barangays to ensure that it will not spread," Enriquez said. He said it was not only in Bongabong that measles struck but also in neighboring towns.

He said his office had recorded 10 Mangyan deaths attributed to measles. ***Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Feuds threaten world's smallest edible fish

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A LIFE dependent on Lake Buhi and which conflict over water use is changing drastically brings these fishermen to shore empty handed. JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

BUHI, Camarines Sur—Four pieces of *sinarapan* (Mystiches luzunensis philippinensis), the smallest commercial fish in the world, can fit in one's fingertips.

And it lives and thrives only in Lake Buhi here, about 12 hours by bus from Manila.

Unlike the inedible *Pandaca pygmia*, another small fish found in Laguna Lake, *sinarapan* is delicious and served here as an exotic food.

But its habitat, the 1,880-hectare Lake Buhi, has already changed significantly over time and the *sinarapan* population in the lake is being depleted at an alarming rate.

Conflicts over the use of the lake is threatening its very existence.

Alarming depletion

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has declared that *sinarapan* should be preserved now because its rate of depletion is alarming. The fish could be declared an endangered species, the BFAR said.

Edna Tud, officer-in-charge of the BFAR's fisheries diagnostic laboratory, said several factors could be blamed for the depletion of the *sinarapan*.

Buhi Mayor Diones Belza said the lake that hosts the rare fish is in danger.

"The lake is dying," he said.

Belza said partly to blame is the irrigation system that draws water from the lake and sends it to some 10,200 hectares of rice farms in the fourth district of Camarines Sur.

Buckpassing

Belza said the dikes helped contribute to siltation in the lake and raised temperatures that are unbearable to the *sinarapan* and have caused fish kills.

The NIA, however, pointed an accusing finger at the Buhi local government.

Eduardo Yu, NIA Bicol public relations officer, said the main cause of the fish kills and lake pollution is unregulated *tilapia* culture using fish cages.

In a report on a fish kill on Sept. 15, 1998, the BFAR said too many *tilapia* cages in the lake deplete the lake's oxygen supply, increase the level of carbon dioxide in it, and promote the growth of hyacinths.

Another problem is the use of the lake as a dump for domestic wastes.

A BFAR team recorded silt deposits of 1.6-3 meters.

Feeds

Tud said they also observed that the *tilapia* stocks in fish cages were "extremely fed, consuming 40 to 50 bags of commercial feeds per cage for a period of 4 to 5 months."

She recommended that feeding trays be installed at the bottom of the fish cages to prevent nonconsumed feeds from settling down at the lake bottom.

Tud said when the fish kill occurred, which cost some P33 million in losses, the fish cages occupied 87.63 hectares of the total lake area.

But while the accumulation of non-consumed feeds added to the lake siltation, the dikes prevent the natural discharge of silt to the rivers, he said.

Erosion from the deforested areas surrounding Lake Buhi is another problem, she said.

In an apparent move to raise the water level of Lake Buhi to help save the *sinarapan*, the local government here decided to limit the water discharge from the lake by raising the dikes to 81.5 meters from 79.5 meters.

The move had triggered a conflict among the Buhi local government, the National Power Corp. and the NIA because it reduced the amount of water supply for irrigation and the power generation.

Belza further raised the control structure to 82.7 meters on Feb. 2, 2000, which, he said, was his "commitment to the people of Buhi."

Ricelands

Yu estimated that the 1.2-meter difference in the lake's elevation from 81.5 meters to 82.7 meters could deprive some 1,745 hectares of ricelands of irrigation water.

He added that the conflict in water use started a few years before Belza took office.

He said because of the lack of water from Lake Buhi, the Napocor blamed the NIA for a P49-million loss in power generation from the Barit Hydro-Electric Plant.

Yu said the Napocor invoked an agreement with the NIA requiring the NIA to release the needed volume of water for power generation.

However, the NIA passed the buck to the local government of Buhi and stood pat on its position not to pay for the Napocor losses.

The NIA claimed that the local government has no power to control and regulate water use in Lake Buhi. It said that the National Water Resources Bureau had granted the NIA and the Napocor priority rights over the lake waters.

Belza, however, said the local government has full authority to control and regulate the use of water in Lake Buhi under the Local Government Code.

The mayor threatened to collect from the NIA royalty for the use of the lake's water for irrigation which, Yu said, is not justified because what their agency collects are service fees.

Area

Edmundo Nachor, municipal planning development officer, said the total area occupied by the fish cages is within the allowed level under the Fisheries Code of 1998.

He said the installation of fish cages is allowed up to 10 percent of the total area of the lake or about 180 hectares.

Nachor said the proliferation of fish cages owned mostly by Metro Manila capitalists should be checked to maintain the lake's ecological balance.

However, he said, the capitalists are too powerful and influential.

He said the intensive use of feeds for *tilapia* in Lake Buhi pollutes the lake.

Nachor, using BFAR data, estimated that last year alone, some 1.2 million bags of feeds had been poured into the lake to feed cultured *tilapia* in 12,382 cages.

"It is no wonder why the feeds traders here have become very rich in just (a) few years," Nachor said.

Water pollution and the proliferation of fish cages have not only affected the habitat of the *sinarapan* but also the livelihood of the thousands of fisherfolk in the 10 barangays surrounding Lake Buhi.

Hernani Arcilla, 24, said his fish catch has declined from three kilos a day to a kilo a day in just a year because of the pollution.

"The water smells foul because of the feeds," Arcilla added.

He said his father, who was also a fisherman, told him that decades ago, before the fish cages were introduced into the lake, the average catch was seven kilos a day.

Nilda Talangan, 48, a fisherman's wife here, said that in 1973, a three-meter gillnet could yield a basketful of fish after four hours of fishing.

"But with the proliferation of fish cages, you have to pray hard to God to catch at least a kilo of fish," Talangan said.

The revenue collection from licensing the fish cage operators in the year 2000 was P317,389.80, which comprised 17 percent of the town's total budget of P38 million, he said.

Production

He said of the total lake production of 5,300 kilos per day only six percent are from the catch of fishermen while 94 percent are harvested from the fish cages.

Nachor said the value of fish production going out of Buhi town is P225,000 or 5,000 kilos a day or some P1.8 million in a year.

He said Lake Buhi supplies some parts of Bicol, Lucena City and Metro Manila.

The town official said even as there is already an ordinance that zones the 1,880-hectare Lake Buhi, it cannot be implemented.

He added that there are fish cage operators that have encroached into municipal water zones, which is about 200 meters from the shore.

But fisherfolk are not aware of an ordinance that gives priority to village fishermen on fishing in the lake.

Nachor said until now there is no demarcation where the fish cages should be placed.

As planned, the zoning ordinance provides areas for fish cages, navigation, tourism, a 200-meter preferential area for fisherfolk and a fish sanctuary.

Chance

Despite the factors that endanger the ecological balance of Lake Buhi, there is still a chance to preserve *sinarapan*, Nachor said.

The local government here has made use of the three small lakes at the upper portion of Mt. Asog, the dormant volcano that collapsed during its Jan. 4, 1641 eruption to form Lake Buhi, to propagate *sinarapan*, he said.

However, propagating *sinarapan* for commercial use in the lake is just a possibility.

Belza expressed optimism *sinarapan* will again thrive in Lake Buhi as long as the water level is as it is now.

50 communist rebels attack remote town in Quezon

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Fallen communication lines and bad weather made it easy for some 50 New People's Army guerrillas to attack Burdeos town on Polillo Island in Quezon province, said a police official here.

Supt. Rodolfo Fuentes, operations chief of the Quezon PNP Command, said three policemen on duty in Bordeos were caught by surprise by the attack.

The attack sent villagers into panic.

Fuentes said SPO1 Erasto Llagas, acting police chief of Burdeos, and five of his men were patrolling a remote village when the rebels struck.

Fuentes denied reports (not in the INQUIRER) that said at least 20 policemen in the town's precinct were hogtied and their firearms seized.

He said the town, with a population of 12,000, has only 10 policemen, including the police chief.

"The three policemen on duty were captured by the rebels and were used as human shields but were later freed. But (the rebels) took their (policemen's) service firearms," Fuentes said.

As of late afternoon yesterday, Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, Quezon police director, directed police forces in the province to hunt the rebel group.

According to Fuentes, Alejandrino and his men used attack helicopters to hunt the guerrillas but zero visibility due to heavy rains prevented them from landing in the area.

"Communication lines were also cut off making it hard to (ask) for immediate reinforcement," Fuentes said:

A radio operator from the Kabalikat Civicom group based inside the camp said the rebels also seized at least five VHF radios from members of the radio group in Burdeos town.

Fuentes said Burdeos can be reached by motorboat. The ride takes six hours from Real, Quezon.

He said in 1986, police foiled a rebel attack also in Burdeos town.

Burdeos is between the municipalities of Panulukan and Polillo which comprise the island municipalities in the first district of the province.

In April last year, Pfc. Perfecto Royenn of the 17th Scout Ranger, was killed during an encounter with about 20 rebels in Barangay Magsikap, General Nakar.

The rebels also stormed the Agdangan municipal hall last year, taking with them policemen's firearms.

They also burned heavy equipment owned by a South Korean firm in Mulanay, Quezon worth P21 million and two delivery trucks of the Asia Brewery Inc. in a remote village in Atimonan town, some 10 kilometers here.

The NPAs allegedly launched the attacks after the firms refused to pay revolutionary taxes to the guerrillas. ***Arnel Avila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

The least known peacemakers

BY NASH B. MAULANA
Sultan Kudarat

AT 14, Tata is the youngest member of a group of peace volunteers in Sultan Kudarat. And yes, even as one President goes and another comes in, no one can dictate on him when to talk on and do something for peace and when to stop doing it.

His young mind crafts a worthy vilification on "the costly small gains of government-sponsored peace negotiations taking place in four-cornered air-conditioned halls" as sometimes nothing but a "grandstand for some politicians."

"For me, peace should always be around us and prevail on our day-to-day activities," says Shariff Ali Asghar Ampatuan, better known as Tata.

The recent armed conflict in Central Mindanao has brought local journalists, civic and religious leaders as well as former rebels and ex-soldiers together as committed bearers of peace, and being vigilant of civilians' welfare wherever armed confrontations occur, 24 hours a day.

Armed with video and still cameras, notebooks and pens, members of the Special Monitoring and Media Action Group (SMMAG), an organization of local peace volunteers, would rush to scenes of armed conflict and do all things possible to save innocent lives.

Secret formula

This group of Christian and Muslim volunteers shares its secret formula for success in its peace and crisis management activities, thus: 3c + b = p.

Where: c is courage, commitment and communication, b bias and p peace.

"*Kay kon mabal-an nila nga may bias ka, wa'y ma makompiyansa sa imo. Bisan sino indi gid na makompiyansa sa imo* (for if they know that you are biased, no one will trust you)," community leader Roger de la Cruz points out.

"Communication *isa pa na sa pinakaimportante* (is also very important)," says SMMAG member, Gerly Patagoc. And for commitment, most of them work sometimes even without food and sleep. None, however, would say they're all courageous to do their risky job.

Tata has learned to operate his father's video camera, which documented the smallest details of newsworthy incidents in the province, including a well-publicized hostage-taking situation in nearby Palian, Marbel, South Cotabato, and another in Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat.

The group decided to send one of its members, Nining Laurel of the Mindanao Post together with Tata's father, Cliff Ampatuan, to negotiate with the leader of the armed group said to be holding hostage some 50 passengers of a Yellow Bus liner in June. The group succeeded in negotiating with Commander Golem of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to release the hostages.

A former activist and rebel leader, Cliff, who now works as information officer for the National Irrigation Administration, is the SMMAG founder and organizer.

Brewing animosity

Another perilous situation the group experienced was a brewing animosity among Muslim and Christian residents of Barangays Kanipaan and San Roque in Palembang town.

With the killing of his grandfather allegedly by a Maguindanaoan Muslim, a man named Nonoy went amok with a bolo, trying to kill every Muslim in sight.

It was Cliff who dissuaded Nonoy, a member of the cultist Tadtad, "to think being Christian" and give himself up.

"I asked him: 'Are you a Christian?' He said, 'yes.' I said, 'has Christ ever been present in your heart?" Then the man began to calm down, Cliff recalls.

Interestingly, Patagoc, a Methodist pastor, managed to handle the other side of the conflict by preventing a group of Muslim residents from harming Nonoy, who was then with Cliff, a Muslim. The idea of a "diagonal negotiation like this is to effectively prevent either of the opposing groups from shooting first," explained another member of the group.

HE used to play with toy guns but 14-year-old Tata is now a peace volunteer in Sultan Kudarat. NASH MAULANA

"In situations like this, sometimes I even had to gamble the life of my youngest son (Tata) by leaving him, for instance, under the care of government troops, while I negotiate with the other side, trying to convince them to withdraw. Otherwise, they would be bringing misery to a lot of innocent people," Cliff said.

In Barangay Kamanga in Isulan town, the group wanted Army soldiers involved in the July massacre of nine Maguindanaoan Muslim residents, banished, if not charged with multiple murder by the Commission on Human Rights.

Pastor Henry Albano, a decorated retired military officer, is one of the original members of the group, which has now been joined by representatives of locally devolved government agencies. And whenever relief goods are needed for families displaced by shooting wars, Gov. Pax Mangudadatu would send relief volunteers to bring rice, canned goods and used clothing.

But as far as his advisory function to the group is concerned, Mangudadatu's being a provincial governor doesn't really make a difference.

In the spirit of camaraderie in volunteerism, the governor is treated in the group more as a peacemaker, and the crime buster that he was, when he was a former paramilitary leader of the barangay Buaya sa Lanao (crocodile of the lake) in Lutayan town.

"*Waay sang politikanay, waay pa sang tikalanay, sa tuod lang trabaho lang ini* (Neither politics, nor lies. The truth is that it's a must-do job for all of us)," another member says.

Pooled resources

The group works on its members' pooled resources for logistics. Mangudadatu uses his family businesses' *zakat* (funds derived from obligatory Islamic alms) to make sure the group was distributing the same quality of rice as those his family eats (an Islamic pre-requisite in sharing one's earnings with the poor).

The governor, too, tries to encourage self-reliance that "if the local Social Welfare and Development office and other groups have something to share with the people, well and good," De la Cruz says.

"You see, we give food, but sometimes we have to imagine the taste of missed luncheons and dinners while working for the others' good," Pastor Henry said. He recalls their frequent experience sleeping with barrio residents in areas put under military control.

Cliff says they cannot leave the residents until "some degree of confidence between them and the occupying forces" has been established.

In case of abusive soldiers and members of rebel forces, the group takes time to write the superior commands of the parties involved. This happened, Cliff says, when some residents complained about cases of "salvaging" (summary execution) and looting of houses of civilians—a frequent complaint hardly raised in the formal peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Even when all parties concerned have decided to send the evacuees back to their places of origin, SMMAG would ensure that they would return safely by "sanitizing" the areas.

This means some members of the group—the former rebels and ex-soldiers who had trained on defusing explosives—comb the areas in post-conflict for unexploded propelled or projectile grenades, landmines, etc., said Cliff and Patagoc who is also a former military intelligence officer.

Self-reliance

Four years ago, Tata, who idolizes his father, was fond of expensive toy guns, until he saw the ugly faces of war.

To sustain their multi-pronged program, the group also assists members of rehabilitated communities in cattle and goat-raising to foster self-reliance.

SMMAG also takes note of the communities' needs and makes necessary recommendations to government agencies concerned. Some of their activities being coordinated with government agencies include rehabilitation, training and technology-transfer for agriculture and aquaculture livelihood projects.

The SMMAG way of volunteerism is also spreading fast in Maguindanao where the traditional leadership explore on an alternative avenue to achieving peace other than the formal peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Datu Andal Ampatuan, Cliff's granduncle and head of the Maguindanao traditional leaders, has called on the national government to rescue the future of Maguindanao children, who are vulnerable recruits of armed groups. This, the elder Ampatuan says, can be achieved through serious involvement of concerned agencies to a constitutional duty of "rearing the youth to self-efficiency and the development of moral character."

In many Muslim-dominated areas, young people seem to be turning back to sports and the pursuit of education, away from armed adventurism.

Sustained and direct government involvement into grassroots programs for the people's welfare in areas including education would be a practical supplementary activity, if not a substitute, to the formal peace negotiations, the Ampatuans said.

In opposition

FROM THE MARGINS

P.N. Abinales

I have been critical of the politics of Gloria Arroyo during the "jueteng" crisis, and I see no reason to alter my position now that she is de facto President. For while I applaud the popular aspect of ex-President Estrada's ouster, I am likewise fearful of the fact that the coup, no matter how popular it was, is now an added and perhaps fixed feature in the way we change leaders. Jan. 20 was indeed a fitting closure of a mass movement; it was also part of an unconstitutional act in which the most feared and most undemocratic of state agencies—the military—became the decisive actor in the resolution of the crisis.

Arroyo became president by changing the mode of democratic transfer of power (elections, impeachment) and no amount of constitutionalist Monday morning quarterbacking can alter this fact. We can hate Estrada for all we want, but I also thought that after 1986 and the much respected "Cory Constitution," we all agreed that there are certain procedures associated with our constitutional system which we must abide by to insure the peaceful transfer of power and the constitutionalization of constitutional politics. Edsa II has changed all that and the future is both bright and forbidding.

I am also not that naïve to recognize that the democratic movement that unseated Estrada is "led" by the most undemocratic and opportunistic of organizations, elites and personalities.

It would be a stretch for one's political imagination and democratic sensibilities to attribute some democratic provenance to Renato de Villa, his patron Fidel Ramos and the Svengali Jose Almonte. This cabal still has a lot of explaining to do with regards to a question raised by human rights organizations about the wanton brutality its former mother unit—the defunct Philippine Constabulary—had inflicted on poor Filipinos during the Marcos era. Their answers when confronted by this inquiry have been inadequate and the marginalization of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and the weakening of human rights groups have only strengthened the possibility that we as a people will simply let our memories of this violent past pass. Participation in Edsa I does not negate this inquiry for, as these characters are now saying it themselves, reconciliation can only come with justice.

The same goes with their political partners—Arroyo's Lakas party and the quintessential trapo Jose de Venecia. Amari and other heinous corrupt deals linked to this party of *trapos* remain unresolved as the PCIJ series on pork and other corruptions constantly remind us. In the planned persecution of Erap, his minions and his mistresses, wouldn't it be fair to broaden the lawsuit to include these would-be-lovers of democracy? After all what is good for the ousted drunk in power may be good for those inebriated with power as well.

The moral stature of the cardinals of the Church does not erase the fact that it is an institution that is profoundly undemocratic—an all-male leadership governing like a communist party (top-down, edicts from Rome), with its finances and wealth closed to public scrutiny, and its officials not subject to any popular recall at all. In the secular world, the institutional Church finds ironical soul mates in the equally sanctimonious captains of industry, running their corporations and enterprises like autocrats on the sole basis that they own majority of the stocks. One can even inquire as to the genesis of some of these business leaders' corporate wealth, including those that sprung out as a result of crony capitalism in countries like Indonesia and Malaysia.

Of Arroyo I have said much in the past, although five adjectives that describe her political (not private) persona are worth reiterating here: *trapo*, *burgis*, ambitious, overrated and survey-driven.

Neither are Arroyo's Leftist fans guiltless. It is public knowledge that the most vocal of the Pinoy radicals, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, the Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, often function as the virtual mouthpieces of an exile who wants to become a Dutch citizen and whose knowledge of the Philippines has been frozen since 1987. Its "defense of democracy" does not belie the fact that early in the last decade it conducted the most undemocratic of purges of members and activists that its guru Joma Sison have branded as revisionists, collaborators and heretics (the KMP demand for justice for the Mendiola massacre is disingenuous as it sets aside reports that some of its leaders—oblivious of the tense national atmosphere then—egged their followers to apply more pressure on a very edgy Marine defense force).

The exceptions are the smaller leftist groupings. I have more respect to what the smaller ex-natdem-socdem-socialist coalitions like Akbayan are doing. At least it is quite serious in making a presence in the most popular political ritual (elections) and in showing that Leftists can govern. It also has made itself clear about its guarded backing of "President" Arroyo, very different from the fulsome backing expressed by its above rivals.

Too bad that the more respectable of leaders in this broad political spectrum—Etta Rosales, Hilario Davide Jr., Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Raul Roco, Joker Arroyo, Roan Libarios, Pat Sarenas—have not seized the moment.

Perhaps precisely because of their being ethical that they tend to be least ambitious. We can only pray that their ranks expand in this current conjuncture.

For all these reasons and for my enduring distaste for cacique democracy I cannot get myself to join the bandwagon many of my friends are in these days or wishing the new regime well.

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All in the family, still

MOTHER, father, brother, sister, son, daughter. Name it and across the nation's political landscape, the same family names are cropping up.

In Davao City, most of the candidates belong to the same families: Duterte, Garcia, Nograles, Lopez, Pichon, Orcullo, Robillo, Mata, Reta, among others ("It's all in the family," PDI, March 2, page 14).

It's also "all in the family in Davao del Sur, Cagayan de Oro and Maguindanao.

Same names

In Davao del Sur, members of the Llanos, Sunga, Latasa, Almendras-Bendigo-Cagas, Molina, Bautista and Maceren clans are still running.

From the Llanos clan in Digos City, Reynerio, private secretary and elder brother of outgoing governor Rogelio (1992-2001) is official gubernatorial bet for the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC). A nephew, Nonito Llanos III is a reelectionist councilor.

From the Sunga family in Digos, incumbent Vice Gov. Antonio Sunga is Lakas' bet for governor. His son, Romeo, Digos vice mayor, is running for mayor under the same banner.

From the Latasa clan also in Digos, three-term Digos town Mayor Arsenio Latasa (NPC) is running for city mayor despite questions on legality. Digos became a city on Sept. 8, 2000.

Latasa contends the job of a municipal mayor is different from that of a city mayor, so he claims he is still qualified. His elder brother Simplicio, Llanos's provincial administrator, is running for a seat in the provincial board also under the NPC ticket.

Same clans

From the Molina family in Digos, Esther Molina (NPC) is reelectionist board member while son Ricardo Jr. is reelectionist city councilor.

From the Almendras-Bendigo-Cagas clan of Sta. Cruz, incumbent 1st district Rep. Douglas Cagas is seeking reelection under NPC.

A nephew, John Tracy Cagas is also a reelectionist in the city council.

Cagas is cousin of Emmanuel Bendigo (NPC) who is a reelectionist board member. Bendigo's brother, Apol is reelectionist vice mayor for Sta. Cruz.

Another Cagas cousin, Arthur Almendras (Lakas), son of former senator Alejandro Almendras Sr., is vying for the vice gubernatorial seat.

Their nephew, Antonio King Almendras (Ind.) is running as city councilor for the first time. King is the son of former congressman Alejandro Jr.

From the Montejo clan of Malalag, Davao del Sur, reelectionist Mayor Givel Mamaril is NPC official bet while his father, former mayor Andres Montejo is running for a seat in the provincial board.

Change posts

From the Bautista clan of Malita, Davao del Sur, Benjamin Bautista Jr., is Reynerio Llanos' running mate under NPC.

Bautista's brothers are exchanging posts. Claude, incumbent Malita mayor, will run in the 2nd congressional district while Franklin, incumbent congressman, is making a comeback as mayor.

From the Maceren clan in Digos, incumbent councilor Godofredo Maceren is Lakas' vice mayoralty bet for Digos while his daughter Ma. Elora, a neophyte, is vying for a seat in the city council.

Ampatuans, Candaos

In Maguindanao, incumbent governor Zacaria Candao (Lakas-NUCD) is seeking reelection while Shariff Aguak Vice Mayor Andal Ampatuan is running for governor.

The Ampatuans are mostly in politics while Candao's children are also running for elective posts.

Ma'arouph B. Candao is running for mayor of Parang under Lakas-NUCD while Bai Maleiha B. Candao is running for a seat in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao regional legislative assembly.

From gubernatorial bet Ampatuan's clan are the following candidates: son Saudi, is seeking reelection as Mayor of Datu Piang; another son, Zaldy, is running for mayor of Shariff Aguak.

Another son, Anwar, is running for vice mayor of Shariff Aguak while yet another son, Yasheer, is running for board member in the second district.

Sultan Abbas Ampatuan-Pendatun is running for board member of Maguindanao's second district; Bebot Matalam-Maglangit, niece of ARMM Vice Governor Matalam, is also running for board member in the second district; Freddie Mangudadatu is seeking reelection in the second district while his brother, Esmael, is seeking reelection as mayor of Buluan.

Sakina Pendatun Berman is running for board Member in the second district.

Dilangalen

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen (1st district) is seeking reelection while younger brother, Keneddy, is running for mayor of Kabuntalan.

Dilangalen's cousin, Ramil, is running for board member in the first district.

Tocao Mastura, who served as mayor of Sultan Kudarat from 1988 to 1998, is making a comeback as mayor.

His brother Michael, was reported to be running for ARMM governor, as substitute to Sigrid Datumanong, wife of Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

'Like father, like son'

In Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental, it's "like father, like son."

Lawyer Aquilino Pimentel III, 36, son of former mayor and now Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., is running for mayor against a former Pimentel ally, Vicente Emano III.

Emano served as mayor of Tagoloan town in Misamis Oriental, rose to become governor of the province and in 1998 was elected Cagayan de Oro City.

Emano's son, Bambi, is running for Tagoloan Mayor.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin, former mayor of Claveria town, is seeking reelection while his son, Rocky, is running for Claveria mayor. *Allan A. Nawal, Nash B. Maulana and Ellen P. Red*

Mt. Dulang-dulang has fictitious name

LANTAPAN, Bukidnon—Move over, Jose Velarde. The country's second highest peak, which is located here, bears a fictitious name.

Tribal folk here said the name of Mt. Dulang-dulang (2,938 meters above sea level) is Mt. Tuminungan. Datu Henry Binahon of the Talaandig tribe recalled that it was the mountaineers who gave the mountain the wrong name sometime in the early 1980s.

Binahon said the real Dulang-dulang is a peak of lower elevation near Tuminungan. However, for unknown reasons, mountaineers would exclaim they had conquered Dulang-dulang upon reaching Tuminungan's summit. He said the wrong name stuck and found its way into official maps and records.

Binahon said he would urge the *lumads* here to ask concerned officials to restore the mountain's correct, original name.

According to a *lumad* myth, Tuminungan means the place where the chosen people communicated with Magbabaya (God) before their earthly bodies ascended to heaven. Tribal elders said the rapture took place during the Great Deluge when only the summit of Tuminungan remained visible. *H. Marcos C. Mordeno*

Repeating falsehood

BY PATRICIO P. DIAZ

COMMENTARY

NAZI Germany's propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels brainwashed the Germans by repeating and repeating falsehood about Nazism and the *fuehrer* Adolf Hitler until they believed the falsehood as the truth. Goebbels is long dead, but his legacy has become a doctrine for propagandists and demagogues.

Believe it! without "or not," leaders of General Santos City, political and civic, are disciples of Goebbels. By more than three decades of annual repetition, they have now come to believe as historical truth that Feb. 27 is the Foundation Day of General Santos City.

The truth is: Feb. 27 is a historical date to General Santos City and must be observed or celebrated. But, it commemorates a historical event other than the founding of General Santos City.

* * *

The city celebrated its 62nd Foundation Anniversary on Feb. 27. What does this mean? General Santos City was founded on Feb. 27, 1939. To the unknowing, this is historical truth when, in fact, it is a big lie.

What happened on Feb. 27, 1939? General Paulino Santos, the administrator of the National Land Settlement Administration (NLSA) landed at Dadiangas together with the first employees and the first settlers. From out of the wilderness, they founded Lagao Settlement District, not a city named General Santos City.

Since Lagao Settlement District was the nucleus of the Koronadal Valley and Allah Valley Settlement Projects, Feb. 27, 1939 can be historically attributed as the foundation of the NLSA settlements in Southern Cotabato which now comprise the province of South Cotabato and General Santos City.

* * *

When Lagao Settlement District was founded, the existing political government in the area was that of the Municipal District of Buayan.

However, Lagao Settlement District was autonomous of the Municipal District.

The Buayan Municipal District covered a vast area. After it became a regular municipality in the late 1940s, three municipalities of Polomolok, Malungon and Alabel were sliced from it. What remained was later created into a city and named in honor of General Paulino Santos.

That the naming of the city created out of Buayan into General Santos does not mean that Buayan was founded by General Santos as a city on Feb. 27, 1939.

The Municipal District of Buayan had existed long before Feb. 27, 1939.

What General Santos founded was only a small part of Buayan Municipal District, by area.

So, it cannot even be said that Lagao Settlement District became Buayan Municipal District, then, regular Buayan Municipality, and, eventually, General Santos City. Lagao just became a barangay of Buayan and, later, broken up into several barangays.

The naming of Buayan as General Santos City was a political act pressured by the dominant settlers and their descendants in the municipal government of Buayan. The city could have been founded earlier in the 1960s had the people accepted the name Rajah Buayan, as proposed by Rep. Salipada K. Pendatun, author of the first cityhood bill.

After the creation of South Cotabato province, James Chiongbian became the congressional representative of the province. Among his first acts was to file a bill creating Buayan into a city named in honor of General Paulino Santos.

The charter, approved on June 15, 1968 and signed on July 8, 1968, was accepted by the people.

* * *

But, instead of celebrating the foundation of General Santos City on the date its charter was signed or the first city government was inaugurated on Sept. 15,1968, the leaders continued observing Feb. 27 as its foundation day and continuing the count from 1939. The repetition of the lie had made it accepted as the historical truth.

When a municipality becomes a city, it assumes a new political status. It celebrates the anniversaries of its new status, relegating to history its old status. Thus, Cebu, which was already Cebu when Magellan came in 1521, celebrated its 64th anniversary as a city last week. Cotabato, which was already in existence when Shariff Kabunsuan arrived in 1515, celebrated its 41st anniversary as a city on June 20, 2000.

If Cebu City and Cotabato City were to do what has been done in General Santos City, they would be celebrating their more than 1500th foundation anniversary.

If a city were to mark its foundation anniversary starting with its foundation as a municipality, General Santos City would not be celebrating its 62nd foundation anniversary since Buayan was made a regular municipality only in the late 1940s.

* * *

Isn't it ridiculous that, when General Santos and the first settlers opened Lagao Settlement District on Feb. 27, 1939 from the wilderness, a city sprang up right away? But, we did not see a city when we, the third batch of settlers, arrived here on Jan. 4, 1940.

Isn't it ridiculous that, when Buayan Municipal District was a wilderness on Feb. 27, 1939, Cotabato was already a capital town, yet, as a city, General Santos City is older than Cotabato City? And, General Santos City is only two years younger as a city than Cebu City.

This historical falsehood should be corrected. But, the present city officials and their collaborators from the civic organizations have already believed the lie as the truth.

Earlier before Feb. 27 last year, I personally gave a letter and an article each to the Sanggunian Panlunsod and to the City Mayor explaining the error. I was ignored.

Not only the city officials are liable for perpetuating the falsehood, but, also their collaborators from the civic sector like the Kalilangan. To its credit, Kalilangan should be lauded for featuring the cultural diversity of the city, but, that does not justify its part in perpetuating a historical lie.

The falsehood can be corrected if the administration officials and civic leaders would only open their minds and realize the historical lie. We can only cross our fingers that the next administration will correct this.

The correct historical legacy of the city should not be taken for granted.

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 6 March 2001

POST GRADUATE COURSES

Principles of Mechanical Ventilation
Didactics in Childhood Tuberculosis
Tuberculosis: Drug Resistance
Pulmonary Rehabilitation
Quality Control in the TB Laboratory
Diagnosis of PTB at the Community Level

OPENING CEREMONIES- 4:30 PM
COCKTAIL RECEPTION
ASTER CHALLENGE

Wednesday, 7 March 2001

CONVENTION PROPER - Day 1

PCCP CEREMONIES-Induction of New Members
Keynote Lecture
OPENING OF EXHIBITS
PS 1 - Asthma and the Smoking Home
CS 1 - TB and Health Sector Reforms
PS 2 - Childhood Tuberculosis - Pitfalls in the Diagnosis of Pedia TB
Childhood Tuberculosis - Treatment of Childhood Tuberculosis
RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION
CS 2 - Lung Cancer Screening
CS 3 - Pulmonary Infections
CS 4 - Oxygen: Old Agent, New Understandings
CS 5 - TB in Urban Cities
CS 6 - TB in the Medical Curriculum
PS 3 - The GOLDen Guidelines
PCCP ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
CS 7 - Socio-Cultural Dimensions of TB
FELLOWSHIP DINNER - Oceana Night

Thursday, 8 March 2001

CONVENTION PROPER - Day 2

SS 1 - Cyclic Antibiotics in Bronchiectasis
SS 2 - Quarantine Law for Tuberculosis
PS 4 - Political and Ethical Responsibilities of the Physician in Tobacco Control
CS 8 - DOTS in Action
PS 5 - Tuberculosis Treatment: Theory and Reality
CS 9 - Environmental Lung Health
CS 10 - The Pleura Explored
CS 11 - Pulmonary Diagnostics: How the Experts Do It
CS 12 - Tobacco Control
CS 13 - Public-Private Partnership
RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION
PS 6 - TB in the Eastern Region
CS 14 - Cases in Pulmonary Infections
CS 15 - Asthma Practice Guidelines: Assessing the Impact
CS 16 - Re-Defining Interstitial Lung Disease ILD
CS 17 - TB Advocacy
IUATLD-ER Council Meeting

Friday, 9 March 2001

CONVENTION PROPER - Day 3

SS 3 - Long Acting Beta 2 Agonist vs. Leukotriene Antagonists as Add-on Therapy in Asthma
SS 4 - COPD: Steroids in Chronic Stable COPD
PS 7 - Update: TB Vaccines
PS 8 - Success Stories in TB Treatment
CS 18 - Occupational Lung Disease
CS 19 - Special Circumstances in COPD Management
CS 20 - TB & HIV - Double Trouble
PS 9 - COPD & Asthma: Differentiating Them Where It Counts
PS 10 - MDR-TB: The State of the Problem
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Kissa, witnesses cited as new heroes of banking industry

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

ON Feb. 4 last year, bank executive Clarissa "Kissa" Ocampo sat one foot away from then President Joseph Estrada as he signed the name "Jose Velarde" on documents she had brought to Malacañang.

Thirteen months later on Friday night, Ocampo stood alongside a beaming President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom she helped install to power with her damning testimony against Estrada during his impeachment trial.

Ms Macapagal and officers of Equitable PCI Bank gave awards of recognition to Ocampo and eight other prosecution witnesses employed at the bank in simple ceremonies at the Equitable Tower in Makati City.

They were all cited as "the new heroes of the banking industry."

Ocampo, 45, a senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, spoke on behalf of the eight others in extolling the bank's adherence to "professionalism, integrity, and, if need be, courage."

"Looking back, I am sure it was the only right thing to do. Even as my greatest fear was for the safety of my family, there was no doubt in my mind that I had only one option—this simply was to tell the truth," she said.

Among those awarded were lawyer Manuel Curato, who was also present in Malacañang on Feb. 4, and who corroborated Ocampo's testimony at the impeachment trial.

The others were Equitable PCIB first vice president Annie Ngo, whose sharp memory stood out during her testimony, and branch managers Rosario Bautista (Diliman), Emma Gonzales (Isidora Hills), Edel Nantes (Timog-Scout Tobias), Vergel Pabillon (T.M. Kalaw), Edgardo Alcaraz (Speaker Perez) and Shakira Yu (Robinsons Place).

The managers testified on how Estrada's auditor, Yolanda Ricaforte, had opened million-peso accounts with their respective branches.

These accounts, the prosecution said, contained ill-gotten wealth.

Pride

"When I went to Malacañang in February 2000 (for the signing of the bank documents), what I witnessed did not make me proud to be a Filipino," Ocampo said.

She said she had "no inkling that from this occurrence, events would be unleashed that would give our country another chance."

"God, who they say works in mysterious ways, has miraculously created another chance for us, has made us all again proud to be Filipinos," she said.

Ocampo had told the Senate impeachment court that she witnessed Estrada affix the signature "Jose Velarde" on documents authorizing Equitable PCIB to extend a P500-million investment loan to the Wellex Group, owned by his friend William Gatchalian.

She had also testified that Estrada kept a secret account in the bank, also under the name Jose Velarde.

Her testimony was deemed the missing link in the prosecution panel's efforts to show that Estrada had stashed hundreds of millions of pesos in "jueteng" bribes and protection money in various banks, using aliases.

Ocampo had earlier told the House prosecutors that she wanted to give her testimony before the Christmas break because she feared for her life.

Then House prosecutor Joker Arroyo told the impeachment court that this threat to Ocampo's life was one of the compelling reasons why she should be allowed to testify.

Recovery

In a brief interview with the INQUIRER, Ngo said Equitable PCIB had experienced "fantastic recovery" since Estrada was toppled from the presidency by People Power II.

The bank was said to have suffered losses running into billions at the height of Estrada's impeachment trial, when worried depositors and investors pulled out their money.

"Deposits are flooding back into the bank," Ngo said. "We asked the depositors why they were coming back to us, and they said it was a symbol, much like a badge—that to be an Equitable PCIB depositor would mean that you love your country."

The INQUIRER asked Ngo how her life had changed since she took the witness stand at the impeachment trial.

"Now people easily recognize me everywhere I go," she said.

Asked if there had been any marriage proposals, Ngo shyly said: "No comment."

Palace: Full speed ahead . . .

(From page A1)

Estrada had filed with the Supreme Court a petition insisting that he was "President on leave" and Ms Macapagal was only "acting President."

The uncertainty resulting from the petition has scared off investors, weighing down the stock market and pushing down the local currency.

Renato Corona, Palace chief of staff and presidential spokesperson, said investors and fund managers had been staying on the sidelines, awaiting the Supreme Court's decision.

"Now, we expect them to go full steam in their investments," Corona said, predicting a sharp rise in local stocks and the peso on Monday.

He said there was no reason for investors to hold back now that the Macapagal administration had secured the support of the judiciary, military, police, Congress, civil society and the international community.

Stock market

Analysts also predict the stock market to break out of a three-week slump now that the high court has finally put to rest rumors that it will vote in favor of Estrada.

"I think it (the main Philippine Stock Exchange Index) will go back to 1,700 because Erap will no longer be immune from lawsuits," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas.

The decision paves the way for the Ombudsman's filing of criminal cases against Estrada in the Sandiganbayan.

"Local stocks have been oversold. So maybe this (Supreme Court ruling) will get us back on track. It doesn't matter anymore if Erap's candidates win the May elections," he added.

The main index tumbled 50.03 points or 3.04 percent last week to close at 1,596.97 despite a modest technical bounce on Friday.

Francisco Villaroman, president of Securities Specialist, said the ruling could signal "the start of a rally to 1,800 to 1,900."

Jose Vistan, research head of Wise Securities, said the market would "kick things back into gear."

"However, better governance alone is still not enough to bolster optimism on the stock market. Clearly, the main things investors will be focusing on are economic recovery and corporate earnings growth. The bottom line is that we need to see better fundamentals and better earnings before we can really say that we are out of the woods," Vistan said.

Gonzalo Bongolan, head of research of PCCI Securities Brokers Corp., said the main index could hit 2,000-2,100 within this year and that long-term investors should start accumulating blue chips. Other analysts, however, said there were still other factors spooking the market—looming global risks as well as bickering within the military. *With a report from AFP*

What happens when Joker rides a jeep

(From page A1)

eight-km jeepney ride on Tuesday afternoon from the Manila Central Post Office to the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran.

"Oh, nobody called me Arroyo," he added tickled pink by the instant recognition.

Of course, he credits his "face value" to the hours-long television and cable network exposure he got as a senior prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

Arroyo is running for senator under the People Power Coalition. While he is one of the more popular bets, he believes there are things that candidates cannot measure during the rallies the PPC candidates now hold daily until the election in May 14.

"There's a distance between a candidate and the audience, even when you pass them by to shake hands. But inside a jeepney, you are face to face," he said.

He did it on impulse and to feel the pulse of the man on the street, or rather, inside the common man's vehicle, which had always been identified with Estrada.

The ex-President had a weekly TV-radio show called "Jeep ni Erap." The affinity of the former movie actor for the poor man's ride stemmed from one of his popular movies where he played a jeepney driver.

Also, Arroyo was reliving his youth. The last time he got on a passenger jeepney was "30 to 40 years ago," while a student taking the "Ikot" jeep inside the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman.

Clad in casual clothes and jingling his fare in his pocket, Arroyo took the first southbound jeepney he saw in front of the post office and rode off. The idea was to get on as many jeepneys as possible.

"I don't even recall where the jeepney was supposed to go," he said. "I just told my driver, Mang Dindo, to see me in Baclaran Church."

Arroyo observed that other passengers were more often surprised upon seeing him up close, in the intimate environment of the vehicle.

He wanted to talk to some passengers if they were willing, pay his fare, get down and ride another jeepney.

Arroyo always made it a point to pay his fare. Some of the jeepney drivers took his money, but more refused to do so. This amused him.

Once he was heard saying that in provincial sorties, he was confident of being recognized as long as the houses in the town where they are campaigning have antennas on their roofs.

Staring

"When I get in, well, of course I'm facing downward so the other passengers don't notice. It's when I get seated, and then I see their faces. Some with eyes widening, some with mouths opening, some just stare. I didn't stay long inside," he said.

"It's funny because they are still looking when I get off. And the ones getting on after me, they also look," Arroyo added.

In one instance, Arroyo sat in front beside the oblivious driver. It took some minutes before he recognized the white-haired Arroyo.

And when he did, the driver took his eyes off the road, gave Arroyo a long, hard stare as the jeepney roared along the road and stretched out his hand. Dangerous, but what the heck! "*Iboboto kita. Talaga* (I'll really vote for you)," the driver promised.

Arroyo said his jeepney adventure was fueled by nothing but curiosity. He had no staff, no photographers nor bodyguards. But then, he has always been well-known for being the only member of the House of Representatives who walks around without an entourage.

Only Mang Dindo keeps him company wherever he goes.

"I just wanted to get their reactions. People of all ages. That was what I wanted to find out," he reiterated after the trip.

"What I saw was beyond my expectation and riding the jeepney after all those years, it was one of the best things I did," Arroyo laughed.

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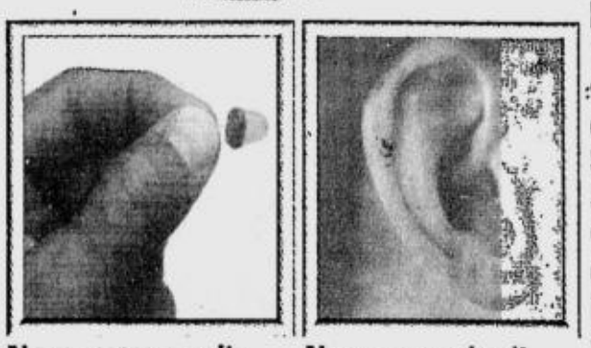

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Erap: It's not my diary

(From page A1)

on)," Saguisag said in a statement issued yesterday.

He said he had yet to receive a copy of the tribunal's voluminous resolution released Friday night, but noted that the verdict "was not unexpected."

Estrada himself said the verdict appeared to have been rushed. He said he had received reports of rumors that the justices were pressured into making the decision.

"*Parang inapura ang desisyon*," the ousted President said in an interview at the Kaamulan Park in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

"I felt there were strong pressures for the decision was promulgated in haste. It should not have been rushed because it involves the presidency," he said.

Estrada admitted that the decision saddened him. He said it came as a surprise because his lawyers had told him that he had a good chance of winning.

He also said he was willing to work with the Macapagal administration in trying to achieve unity in the country.

"Why not? I'm not power-hungry. I just want to make a point that I'm defending our Constitution. This is a legal and historic (matter) for our country. We will not tolerate coup or mob rule," Estrada declared, adding:

"Constitutionally speaking, (the Macapagal administration) is a plain and simple military coup and mob rule."

Nevertheless, he said that he was willing to negotiate with the government, but that he had nothing to offer.

"They are the ones in power, they should give the propositions," Estrada said.

'Elite's victory'

Joseph Victor Ejercito, Estrada's son by former starlet Guia Gomez, said the decision was "a victory for the elite and a defeat for the masses."

But he said he was hopeful that it would serve to turn the tables on his father's detractors and pave the way for the victory of the Estrada-backed candidates in the May 14 elections.

"The people will be more sympathetic (to us) because of what happened," Ejercito told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said his family would file a motion for reconsideration as a "last resort."

Saguisag foresees that "the odds will be more daunting" now with the justices' unanimous vote that Estrada resigned the presidency.

"But we hope the Supreme Court will keep an open mind," he said.

"If that fails, petitioner Estrada will appeal to the people to veto, on May 14, 2001, certain institutions and civil society decisions on which they had not been consulted, and later, in history, as we continue to lament that processes and institutions may have been further weakened," he said.

Saguisag also said that as far as he was concerned, "it was never a question of (Estrada's) returning to power."

The law allows Estrada 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration. Only after that will the high court issue a final verdict on the matter.

Saguisag said Estrada phoned him yesterday afternoon "to say he was not interrupting his campaign schedule and would return to Manila (today)."

"Way to go," Saguisag enthused.

Tomorrow afternoon, Estrada is set to confer with his lawyers on his next step.

"He is trying to take the setback in stride," Saguisag said in reference to the 13-0 verdict.

Angara's diary

The justices noted that Angara's third-person account narrated that on Jan. 19:

- Estrada himself proposed a snap election in May and promised he would not run as a candidate.
- Estrada "listened intently" as Senate President Aquilino Pimentel later advised him to consider the option of a "dignified exit or resignation" for the sake of his family.
- Estrada held on to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes' promise that he would be allowed to remain five more days in Malacañang, supposedly a proof that "petitioner had reconciled himself to the reality that he had to resign."
- There was no defiance on Estrada's part toward a request made by former President Fidel Ramos, as relayed through Angara, for a "peaceful and orderly transfer of power."

Aside from Angara's account, the tribunal considered other arguments, such as whether it should decide on the questions of legitimacy and immunity, and whether the Estrada petition insisting that Ms Macapagal's government was illegitimate was a political or a justiciable question.

But Estrada, speaking in Taglish, said Angara's diary "should not have been part of the issue."

"When I said, '*Ayoko na, pagod na ako* (I'm through, I'm tired),' I was referring to the stress brought on by the negotiations that started at 8 p.m. and ended at 6 a.m.," Estrada said.

He added: "I didn't sleep then. I said '*Ayoko na, pagod na ako.*' I did not say that I was resigning. So in short, even with that diary, there is no such word as 'resignation.'"

Angara told the INQUIRER yesterday that the high court still had to explain the "legal justifications" of its decision.

"It's true that the diary provided a background on (Estrada's) frame of mind, but it does not indicate that the President has effectively resigned," Angara said.

He pointed out that there were certain conditions attached to the Estrada camp's offer of resignation, but that these were not fulfilled.

He said the offer only indicated the Estrada camp's "sincerity" in ensuring a peaceful transition.

Snowball in hell

Saguisag said that "from the start, I was saying that a new President usually gets a free pass in his or her first judicial challenge."

He added: "I am on record that our chances of winning were less than a snowball's chance of surviving in hell.

"I could not see where the court would embarrass its chief (Hilario Davide Jr.) and an associate justice (Artemio Panganiban), and, if certain unverified reports are true, there were other (justices) at Edsa last Jan. 20."

The last was a reference to Ms Macapagal's oath of office as President, which Davide administered to her in front of the Edsa Shrine on that day.

It was Saguisag who asked Davide and Panganiban to inhibit themselves from the tribunal's en banc sessions on the issue of the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

Saguisag noted reports that the justices took note of Angara's account of Estrada's "final days."

He said he would like to confirm whether the high court relied heavily on Angara's account, and if it did, whether "an ex post facto account could have resulted in a 'resignation' on Jan. 20, 2001."

He complained that the high court had apparently not even considered Estrada's side.

He warned that a regional trial court judge was recently dismissed for writing a decision based on newspaper accounts on the case assigned to him.

In that situation, Saguisag said, the judge was penalized "for relying on hearsay evidence."

Sympathy votes

Estrada's son JV Ejercito said he was convinced that the candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa, especially those seeking national posts, would win the sympathy of the people, particularly the voters, as a result of the tribunal's 13-0 vote.

Ejercito, who is running to replace his half-brother Jinggoy as San Juan mayor, said he was still "confident" that the recent turn of events would not affect his political career.

He said that his family's problems had not affected his campaign at the local level, and that the warm acceptance that he was receiving from Jinggoy's constituents had not waned.

"The Supreme Court decision is the victory of the elite," Ejercito said.

Asked whom he was referring to, he said: "Who else but the people in Makati?"

Ejercito said his family would meet as soon as his father arrived from Mindanao.

"Of course we are saddened, but life has to go on," he said. "We are keeping quiet. I don't think they will criticize us."

In a statement, the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) said it was rejecting the tribunal's decision as "a matter of conscience."

PMAP national spokesperson Ronald Lumbao said the decision "dashed the hopes of millions of the poor and underprivileged masses who looked up to it as the last resort in efforts to correct the patently illegal and unconstitutional grab of power."

Lumbao expressed shock at the decision, saying the tribunal did not consider the fact that only "a small mob at Edsa" overturned "the verdict of 11 million" people who voted for Estrada as President.

But he said the PMAP would accept the decision "for now," as the tribunal was "only being consistent with its Edsa participation, and the verdict has become a logical conclusion to justify its coronation of a pretender."

'Justice'

Some 100 Estrada loyalists held a rally near the Supreme Court building in Manila yesterday, bearing streamers saying "Justice for Erap is justice for the poor," "If the law applies to everybody, how much more the Constitution?" and "What happened to democracy?"

There was also a campaign poster of Estrada's wife, Luisa Ejercito, who is running for senator.

The loyalists chanted "Gloria resign!" for several minutes and defaced the posters of administration candidates on the walls near their assembly area on Padre Faura Street corner Taft Avenue.

Tension arose when the loyalists tried at least thrice to march to the front of the Supreme Court building on Faura.

But a truckload of anti-riot policemen herded them back to their assembly point.

The loyalists said they had come from Navotas, Parañaque City, and as far as Nueva Ecija and Cavite. Most of them disbanded shortly after lunch.

"What we are really fighting for is the Constitution. We are fighting for Erap because he just happened to be the beneficiary of our votes," said Boy Bonifacio, a self-appointed spokesperson of the group.

"Had we voted for Gloria, we would also fight for her," he said. ***With reports from Blanche S. Rivera and Jerome Aning***

Gloria urges people: Seize the moment

(From page A1)

to immediately file seven cases of plunder against Estrada in the Sandiganbayan, paving the way for the former president's arrest and prosecution.

Just as the Supreme Court voted 13-0, Ms Macapagal, who was in a buoyant mood as she led a morning campaign rally of the People Power Coalition in Iligan City, urged voters to vote 13-0 in favor of senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition.

The President was in the region a day after Estrada campaigned for opposition candidates in Cagayan De Oro City.

"The Supreme Court has spoken and it has spoken as one," Ms Macapagal said at a press conference at Bancasi Airport in Butuan City.

She also delivered a pointed warning to the Estrada camp.

"For those who preached that the former President is there in power and that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is merely an acting President, the decision should give them pause," she said in a prepared statement released in Manila.

"The cry of the hour is to work as one . . . The verdict should spare us, and spur us to seize the moment. Many and diverse problems are hounding us and we don't have the luxury of time," she said.

'Let's go!'

The President added: "The unanimous decision of the Supreme Court signals that once again we should hit the ground running. I will lead as I have been mandated to lead."

"The 13-0 decision is but the bark of the gun. Let us go!" she concluded, using a racing metaphor.

In Pagadian City, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera urged Estrada to accept the ruling so "we can start our reconciliation process."

But he quickly added that reconciliation did not mean the former president should be immune from suit.

Administration senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo, a leading House prosecutor in the aborted Estrada impeachment trial, urged Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to immediately file the plunder cases against Estrada so that the latter can be arrested.

"It (arrest) depends on whether the Ombudsman does his job or not. He (Estrada) can be arrested anytime, if (Deseirto) did his homework," Arroyo told the INQUIRER by phone from Iligan City.

Citizen Erap

Arroyo said Estrada was just like any "ordinary citizen" now since "all his claims to the presidency are over (and) all his claims to immunity are over."

Nine of the 13 justices have ruled that Estrada has lost his immunity from suit.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., also a PPC senatorial candidate, said the plunder cases against Estrada should now be pursued without impediment.

Magsaysay said the high court ruling should set all the "false claims of Estrada to rest."

Cabrera also jokingly said that "13," the number of justices who ruled on the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency, appeared to be really bad for Estrada, who is known to harbor a phobia for the number.

'Won't prosper'

Rep. Wigberto Tañada said any motion for reconsideration filed by Estrada would "not at all prosper."

"Any objection that may still be raised by the supporters of the former president would not anymore gain attention. The message is very clear. The justices voted 13-0," said Tañada, a member of the prosecution panel in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial.

Ople, who had previously expressed doubt over the legitimacy of the Macapagal's presidency, said: "Fortunately, by now ruling squarely on the issue, the Court has saved the day for itself and the rule of law. And the Court could not have chosen a better (author) in Justice Reynato Puno, who is arguably the finest decision writer in the present Court."

'Big boost'

Both the PPC bids and their rival candidates are in Mindanao for separate two-day campaign sorties.

Ms Macapagal, speaking in Visayan, told a crowd of PPC supporters that residents should be proud because the country has, for the first time, a president from Iligan.

She considers Iligan her second home after Pampanga, having spent her early childhood years in this city where she lived with her maternal grandmother.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Pimentel hailed the high court ruling, saying this would restore investor confidence.

PPC candidates saw the ruling as a "big boost" in their political campaign.

Congressmen Heherson Alvarez and Manny Villar expressed the belief that the ruling coalition would sweep the elections because of the high court decision.

"Those supporters of Mr. Estrada who still believe that he can be reinstated may now change their minds and perhaps vote in favor of PPC," Villar said.

"The people's confidence in the presidency of (Ms Macapagal will be established. With that, a 13-0 victory is achievable," he added.

Arroyo and Tañada described the ruling as a "big" and "fatal" blow to the opposition candidates.

Setback

Arroyo said the ruling "sets back the campaign of Estrada. It pulls the rug under him." He added that Estrada could not hope to run for the Senate in place of his wife because he is charged with plunder, a nonbailable offense.

Arroyo also claimed Estrada had zero chances of winning even if he did take the place of former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito as a candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa.

"Erap is no Ninoy Aquino who can generate sympathy while in prison," Arroyo said, referring to the late senator who garnered wide public support while in prison during the 1978 Interim Batasang Pambansa elections.

Pimentel, a *compadre* of Estrada who sided with opposition forces in People Power II, was just as doubtful about Estrada's seeking a senatorial seat.

"I think the people will look for fresh faces like Loi rather than seeing Erap (go) to the Senate," Pimentel said in a statement, adding that Filipinos were also not used to having a former president running for a lower post.

Unusual

Arroyo said he was surprised by the issuance of the decision on a Friday evening. "What I find very unusual is that the Supreme Court could not wait for Monday to issue the ruling. You normally do not promulgate a decision at 9 p.m. of a Friday," Arroyo said.

The ruling was released after a leak to the media, but Arroyo ventured an opinion on why the ruling was issued 10 days ahead of schedule.

"The Supreme Court probably wanted to deliver a strong message because Erap was bold enough to come to Iligan and Cagayan de Oro and his statements were very destabilizing.

"He keeps on saying he's still the President, so there was a lot of uncertainty. So probably the Supreme Court found it necessary to set the matter to rest," Arroyo said. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad; Tonette Orejas and Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Gobleth Moulic and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Ma. Diosa Labiste, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Vicente S. Labro, Alex V. Pal and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 4, 2001
1st Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: **Dt 26:4-10**

Then the priest shall take the large basket from your hands and place it before the altar of Yahweh, your God, and you shall say these words before Yahweh, "My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt to find refuge there, while still few in number; but in that country, he became a great and powerful nation.

The Egyptians maltreated us, oppressed us and subjected us to harsh slavery. So we called to Yahweh, the God of our fathers, and Yahweh listened to us. He saw our humiliation, our hard labor and the oppression to which we were subjected. He brought us out of Egypt with a firm hand, manifesting his power with signs and awesome wonders. And he brought us here to give us this land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring and offer the firstfruits of the land which you, Yahweh, have given me."

2nd Reading: **Rom 10:8-13**

True righteousness coming from faith also says: *The word of God is near you, on your lips and in your hearts.* This is the message that we preach, and this is faith.

You are saved if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart you believe that God raised him from the dead. By believing from the heart, you obtain true righteousness; by confessing the faith with your lips you are saved. For Scripture says: *No one who believes in him will be ashamed.* Here there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; all have the same Lord, who is very generous with whoever calls on him. Truly, *all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Gospel: **Lk 4:1-13**

Jesus was now full of Holy Spirit. As he returned from the Jordan, the Spirit led him into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. He did not eat anything during that time, and in the end he was hungry. The devil then said to him, "If you are son of God, tell this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "Scripture says: *People cannot live on bread alone.*"

Then the devil took him up to a high place and showed him in a flash all the nations of the world. And he said to Jesus, "I can give you power over all the nations and their wealth will be yours, for power and wealth have been delivered to me and I give them to whom I wish. All this will be yours provided you worship me." But Jesus replied, "Scripture says: *You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him alone.*"

Then the devil took him up to Jerusalem and set him on the highest wall of the Temple; and he said, "If you are son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: *God will order his angels to take care of you* and again: *They will hold you in their hands, lest you hurt your foot on the stones.*" But Jesus replied, "It is written: *You shall not challenge the Lord your God.*"

When the devil had exhausted every way of tempting Jesus he left him, to return another time.

Commentary

The Spirit of God led Jesus from the Jordan to the desert to be tempted by God's adversary. He had to show us that, indeed, we already have the power within us to remain as God's children through thick and thin. In our baptism the same Spirit was poured out upon us. We can, therefore, go through the tests of life, confident that our sonship and daughtership will not be compromised by our selfish desires and worldly attractions. Know who you are and who abides in you!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Indivisible obligation—An obligation is indivisible when it cannot be validly performed in parts, whatever may be the nature of the thing which is the object thereof. The indivisibility refers to the prestation and not to the object thereof. In the present case, the Deed of Sale supposedly conveyed the six lots to petitioner. The obligation is clearly indivisible because the performance of the contract cannot be done in parts, otherwise the value of what is transferred is diminished. Petitioners are therefore mistaken in basing the indivisibility of a contract on the number of obligors. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Nazareno v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 138842, October 18, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

No group could have done it alone–all or nothing

(From page A1)

We also went all-out in forging alliances with the Right, specifically organizations of big business, the conservative Church hierarchy, traditional political parties and, indirectly, the military and police—all who wanted Estrada out.

It felt strange; it was tricky but definitely a learning experience for those of us who saw up close how the elite in the anti-Estrada alliance thought, plotted and moved.

In time, I became a regular guest in the palatial homes of Dasmariñas, Forbes Park and Ayala Alabang. We were their "new friends," which meant, among other things, being subjects of many a souvenir photo session.

Hard to deal with

In the broad united front, it was the military and police elements we were most wary of, but it was the business sector we found most difficult to deal with.

The businessmen were the most cautious (some would say paranoid) and "*makunat*," as it were, choosing to provide resources only to the moderate groups of Kompil II and to the politicians of the United Opposition, whom they felt most comfortable with.

The Nov. 29-30 Lakbayan, which included the famous People Power Lunch, was supposed to be supported by the Makati business groups. But only a handful of their executives and employees went down to join the marchers.

Indeed, more than the Makati businessmen, it was the households of Forbes Park, Dasmariñas, Urdaneta, Bel-Air, San Lorenzo and Ayala-Alabang who took up the challenge of feeding 10,000 hungry marchers for two days.

People like Ching and Serg Montinola, Josie Bantug, Rosanna Fores, Marichu Soriano, Triccie and Louie Sison, Cora Tanjuatco and Teddy Javier became allies and good friends.

Cops and soldiers

The Left's wariness of the military and the police was especially true for Bayan, whose harrowing experiences at the hands of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police are numerous.

In one meeting sponsored by the People's Consultative Assembly, RAM forces, through Gen. Edgardo Abenina and Commodore Domingo Calajate, even offered to "subordinate" themselves to Bayan just to facilitate certain joint actions.

But we would always reject hints of military actions to complement our rallies and demonstrations. We stood our ground and said that the military's task was simply to announce the withdrawal of its support for Estrada, and then to disobey orders, if any, to attack the anti-Estrada forces.

'Too soft'

Our critics would always needle us about our "opportunism" and the "watering down" of Bayan's sharp political line. They chided us for being "too soft" and accommodating toward those they perceived to be our political and ideological enemies.

But we chose to look at the other side of the coin, and appreciated the fact that people who at other times would not touch us with a 10-foot pole were now marching with us, arm-in-arm to, of all places, Mendiola.

They included people like former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, economist Solita Monsod, and civic leader and socialite Tingting Cojuangco. Even the University of Santo Tomas fathers joined our vigils at Mendiola.

Mainstream bands like Color it Red, Moig, Slapshock, Put3Ska, Brown Man Revival and, would you believe, the Executive Band performed at our rallies. We were building a broad base of support for militant street actions and preparing for the ultimate showdown with Estrada.

Most resolute

Of the major groups we worked with, the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM) and the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) were the most resolute in using the parliament of the streets to oust the president.

Copa was particularly instrumental as one of the major organizers of the weekly Wednesday rallies on Ayala Avenue in Makati City. For demonstrators like us, who are more at home at Liwasang Bonifacio and Mendiola, Copa provided the network and resources to reestablish the presence of the militant groups in the Makati business district.

Copa and PCA leaders gave many hints about their efforts to draw in the military and police forces within the framework of a "civilian-led, military-backed struggle."

At least twice they egged us to hold massive rallies to give their military allies a chance to defect or initiate preemptive strikes against pro-Estrada factions in the AFP and PNP.

The first military action would have been some time in the second week of December. The second would have been a planned mammoth rally on Edsa on Jan. 26, to be preceded by a four-day hunger strike at the People Power Monument.

'This is it'

The no vote on the second envelope and Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's infamous dance routine came on the night of Jan. 16.

No group could have predicted what would happen to a tee. We were all surprised at the swiftness of events and were forced to think on our feet as we tried to steer the final showdown with the Estrada regime.

After the walkout at the Senate, at around 11:20 p.m., I called the Bayan office to inform them that Jaime Cardinal Sin would be saying Mass at the Edsa Shrine. I was informed that Bayan forces led by KMU, Gabriela and AnakBayan were already massing in Cubao to go there. We decided to inform all the mass leaders and mass formations to go straight to Edsa.

Upon arriving at the Edsa Shrine a few minutes past midnight, I saw members of the Couples for Christ, Migrante, ERM San Juan, Bayan, Sanlakas, and Ateneo students. In a while, our Cubao contingent arrived.

It was there, in the midst of all the shouting and hooting and blowing of horns that I told myself, "this is it."

We cancelled the indignation rally scheduled the next morning and at 1:10 a.m. sent out a message saying: "Go out into the streets. This is the final push. People Power II has begun."

Deluged

Bayan joined the Mass celebrated by Cardinal Sin at the shrine.

Our office in Quezon City was deluged by calls from here and abroad. In the next few hours, our local chapters spearheaded or participated in protest actions in the urban centers of Davao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Iligan, Marawi, Zamboanga, Kidapawan, Pagadian, Ozamiz, Koronadal, Malaybalay, Digos, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Tagbilaran, Albay and Naga.

Around 4 a.m., Jan. 17, the first among several meetings among the major formations at Edsa was held at the Linden Suites in the Ortigas Center.

Among those present were myself and Dr. Carol Pagaduan-Araullo of Bayan and Estrada Resign Movement; Paul Domingez, Sen. Alberto Romulo and retired generals Lisandro Abadia and Renato de Villa of the United Opposition; Dan Songco and Kiko Pangilinan of Kompil II, Satur Ocampo, Nathaniel Santiago and Vicente Ladlad of Bayan Muna; Joey Lina and Gary Cayton of the Kangkong Brigade; and Triccie and Louie Sison of Couples for Christ.

We identified the requirements for massing up as many people as possible on Edsa and mapped out our immediate tasks.

Bayan was tasked to bring in the warm bodies, which would come from its organized forces in the youth and student sector, and workers and urban poor communities in Metro Manila. ***(To be concluded)***

DUBAI CLASSIC

Woods hangs on to lead

DUBAI— A sudden bout of the putting yips briefly derailed the Tiger Woods steamroller Saturday and left him with a scrap on his hands to claim his first title of the year at the Dubai Desert Classic.

The world number one hung on for a four-under-par third round 68 though, and with one round to go he leads on a 20-under-par total of 196, one clear of Denmark's Thomas Bjorn and three clear of Ireland's Padraig Harrington.

Rolling along nicely at 19 under-par after eight holes of the third round, three clear of Bjorn, the only player left within reasonable striking distance, Woods missed a three-footer for a bogey five at the eighth.

Bjorn birdied the same hole for a two-stroke swing and suddenly there was some pressure on the world number one. Uncharacteristically it seemed to have an effect.

A clearly rattled Woods took four to get down from the edge of the green on the par-five 10th and then missed another four-footer for bogey five at the 12th.

That left a thankful Bjorn one stroke in front and surely left a question mark in the mind of Woods ahead of his date with destiny on the slick and undulating putting greens of Augusta where the Masters will be held in a month's time.

Bjorn was not the only one to charge through the breach.

Harrington, in fine form last month in Asia, went out in 31 and then started back birdie, bogey, birdie, eagle to close the gap on the two men who had led handsomely after rounds one and two, threatening to turn it into a two-horse race.

The putting woes seemed to affect the rest of Woods' game and he had to scramble for pars on the 13th and 14th

The stunning slump was not arrested before the par three 15th where Woods rolled in a 15-footer for birdie two and moved back into a share of the lead with Bjorn.

With normal service resumed, Woods then drove the 351-yard, par-four 17th and narrowly missed his eagle putt, while Bjorn could only par to put the American back ahead again

Four strokes behind Woods comes Indian hope Jeev Milkha Singh, who birdied the last to break out of a six-way tie for fourth place. *AFP*

Golf Power today

GOLF Power today features the highlights of nine international junior golf events during the year 2000 where Philippine Junior Golf Federation players competed.

The show also features its regular dose of trivia, definition and rules.

Golf Power, now on its fifth year, is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13 and is hosted by Philippine Sportswriters Association major awardee for amateur golf Gerard Cantada.

The **Honorable Hernando B. Perez**, secretary of the Department of Justice, cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially mark the 17th Foundation Anniversary of Our Lord's Grace Montessori School & Colleges (OLGMSC) in Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City on February 16, 2001. OLGMSC Chairman Rafael S. Ortañez and school administrator, Mrs. Lydia E. Banogon assist the secretary. ADVT.

War General incident 'embarrassing'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

KARERISTAS' outpouring of discontent over the recent War General incident continues to reach us be it by mail, phone and e-mails.

Of late, no less than a former member of the Philippine Racing Commission who is now based in the United States has expressed his sentiments regarding the matter.

As we previously vowed, *kareristas'* reactions over that harrowing fiasco at Santa Ana will always be welcomed in this space.

Here is Mr. Alfredo Clamor's remarks on that incident and we want all those Philracom officials (especially its unpopular chairman) and the Philippine Racing Club people to read what Mr. Clamor had to say:

Dear Mr. Villanueva,

I got to meet you sometime in 1993 when we were introduced by Attorney Mendoza of Philracom and I was then a member of the Board of Stewrads under Atty. Avelino.

The War General fiasco was really embarrassing. *Hindi sana nangyari ito kung nag* deliberate *maigi ang* Board of Stewards . During our time, before the start of the race, ni review *na namin ang* dividendazo and Official Philracom Program for any last minute changes. I mean, we owe it to the racing public *na bigyan naman sila ng parehas na laban*. That was always my motto.

Here in the East Coast, by the way I live five minutes away from the Laurel park Racetrack, very efficient and effective ang stewards. In fact *ilan na ang nakulong* due to negligence, fixing the races, *walang sinisino, lahat may* liability.

Dito may nag suicide *na* Chairman of the Board of Stewards *dahil sa napagbintangan ng* game fixing. I really hope *na ganyang klaseng delikadesa mangyayari din sa* Pilipinas.

If I can help you with any material regarding racing, please e-mail me and *kung makatulong ako bakit hindi*. *Dito* simultaneous ang racing, 25 locations all over the US, and *magsawa kang mamili kung saan ka tataya* and be rest assured *na parehas ang laban lagi*.

Sumasaiyo,
Alfredo M. Clamor
Laurel, Maryland

* * *

One Winner can also be reached at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph, sports@inquirer.com.ph and www.inquirer.net.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Feasibility 2. Patago 3. Alm and Fire 4. Galvalume
Race 2—1. Fortune Maker/Party Princess 2. Storm Rising 3. Star Sapphire
Race 3—1. Triple Joy 2. Feast of Diamond 3. Wishing Well 4. Gallop for Gold
Race 4—1. My Indy 2. Baby My Beloved 3. Air Express 4. Law Student
Race 5—1. Ocean Friend 2. Magara 3. Nagniningning 4. Plus Factor
Race 6—1. Ong Bee 2. Gambatte
Race 7—1. Roman Queen 2. Mighty Glow 3. Darth Vader 4. Ang Seaman
Race 8—1. Time and Again 2. Dragon Strike 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. District Three
Race 9—1. King Aldrin 2. Lovely Luigi 3. Bemedalled Ruler 4. Mikey's Cure
Race 10—1. Dixie Melody 2. She's So Sure 3. Rainmaker 4. Strong Wind
Race 11—1. Better Harry 2. Glory Be 3. Hearts on Fire 4. Mighty Warrior
Race 12—1. Tenacity 2. Dynasty 3. Secret Quest 4. Summer Dreams
Race 13—1. Prince of Africa 2. Snake Prince 3. Noble Spirit 4. Shuttle's Magic

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Qualifying Australian Grand Prix at 6:30 a.m. (r) Race Day - Australian Grand Prix at 10 a.m. (r- 7 p.m.), F1 Australian Grand Prix at 10:45 a.m. (r –7:45 p.m.) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Genuity Championship, Third Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
This Week in the NBA tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on CNN
TRACK AND FIELD: IAAF Indoor Grand Prix at midnight on Star Sports
BILLIARDS: WPBA Classic Tour, Finals at 6 p.m. (r) on ESPN

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PROMO PERIOD: FEB. 17 - APRIL 21, 2001

Per DOH-BFAD No. 0978 Series of 2000

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Ched Games off due to budget cut

By June Navarro and Blanche Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education National Games, designed for outstanding athletes in the tertiary level, will not push through this year as planned.

Chair Ester Garcia bared this yesterday after the Ched suffered a drastic P70-million cut in its annual budget earmarked for the year.

She said part of the budget slashed, pegged at P20 million, was supposed to be allocated for the implementation of the National Games.

Managed by the Federation of Higher Education Sports Associations last year, the Ched Games were transferred under the cudgels of the Philippine Sports Commission by virtue of Executive Order 81.

The Fhesa is made up of 16 private sports associations all over the country with over 2,400 athletes in tow.

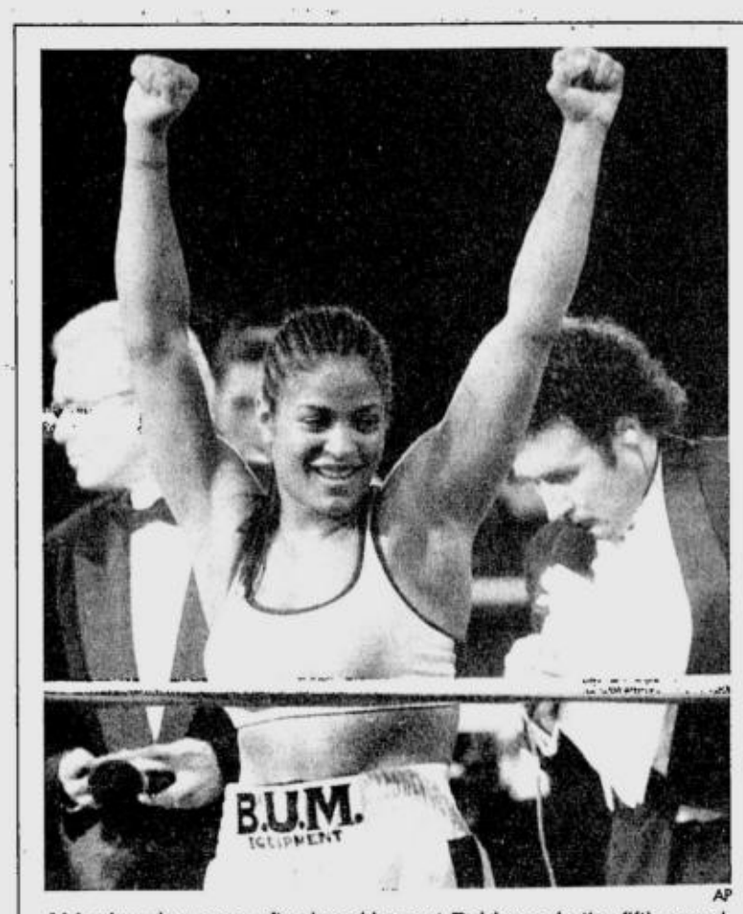
Deposed President Estrada signed EO81, which transfers the implementation of sports programs initiated by the education departments to the PSC, citing the urgent need to synchronize all sports functions under one agency.

The Ched Games was limited to champion athletes in the tertiary level belonging to private school sports associations after it was detached from the Palarong Pambansa in 1998.

Last year, the PSC took over the affairs of the Palarong Pambansa from the Department of Education Culture and Sports as mandated by EO81.

Preliminary talks have begun on this year's staging after PSC chair Carlos Tuason and newly appointed Education Secretary Raul Roco met last week.

Tunson proposed to Secretary Roco that the Palaro be held after the May elections with Tubud, Lanao del Norte, tapped as host of the perennial meet featuring athletes from the elementary and secondary levels.



AP

ALI raises her arms after knocking out Robinson in the fifth round.

Ali, Frazier kids score KO wins

VERONA, New York—Laila Ali and Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, together for the first time on the same fight card, scored separate knockouts to remain undefeated.

Both daughters of former world heavyweight champions, they used Friday night's event as a tribute to the 30th anniversary of their famous fathers' first fight, which was held on March 8, 1971.

Friday's seven-bout event, billed as a "March to Destiny," was broadcast around the world in English, Portuguese and Spanish. A crowd of over 1,700 watched the middleweight rivals use their fights as a buildup to a much anticipated head-to-head encounter in June.

Ali (9-0, 8 KOs), with her husband and manager ex-light heavyweight Johnny McClain ringside, needed five rounds to stop Christine Robinson (2-5, 1 KO).

At 1:50 of the fifth round, Ali ended the fight with a barrage of rights and a left uppercut.

Robinson, who once extended boxer Christie Martin five rounds, could not avoid Ali's right, but was able to absorb it through the first two rounds.

In the third, Robinson landed a few rights of her own. Ali turned more aggressive and started leading with a left jab, with the right cocked, looking for an opening.

In the fourth, Robinson matched Ali punch for punch.

But with the crowd chanting "Ali, Ali," the champion's daughter backed Robinson into a corner in the fifth. She threw a dozen rights, some over, some under. A left upper cut lifted Robinson off the canvas and put her down for the count.

In a short fight, Frazier-Lyde (7-0, 7 KOs) flailed her way to knockout at 1:05 of the first round. She knocked down Genevia Buckhalter (2-8, 2 KOs) twice, the first time with two solid lefts to the chin. The second time, Buckhalter caught another haymaker to the head. Frazier-Lyde had to push the dazed opponent off her as she fell to the canvas.

Meanwhile; it's hard enough to sell Evander Holyfield's rematch with John Ruiz when the champion is not really a champion and the challenger might not really be a contender.

It becomes even harder when Holyfield doesn't buy into the story line.

After fighting the likes of Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, though, it's easy to see why Holyfield might be wondering why he has spent the better part of a precious year dealing with a fighter like Ruiz.

Holyfield gets another chance to do his job Saturday night when he defends the WBA portion of the heavyweight title he won against Ruiz last August in a close, 12-round decision. *AP*

Karting tilt starts today in Carmona

EXPECT the unexpected as Pilipinas Shell and Carmona Circuit Phils. launch another full year of karting action at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite starting today.

Dubbed "Shell Super Karting Series 2001," the nine-part series will feature the country's leading karters in eight different race categories, including the centerpiece Formula Super A class and Formula 125 category.

PSA "Karter of the Year" awardee Philip Alvendia of Kart 1 will defend his title in the Formula Super A category against a small but tough field which include Pepon Marave of Demvel's, Mike Tuason of Tuason Racing Project and Mike Francisco of Francisco Motors.

"I'm confident about my chances this year. I hope to do well, especially now that there are fresh efforts to revitalize the sport," said Alvendia, referring to the creation of the new Philippine International Karting Association (Pika).

Lee Bumgarner, Bert Neuhof and Juha Roiha will lead the karters vying in the Demvel's-sponsored Formula 125 class.

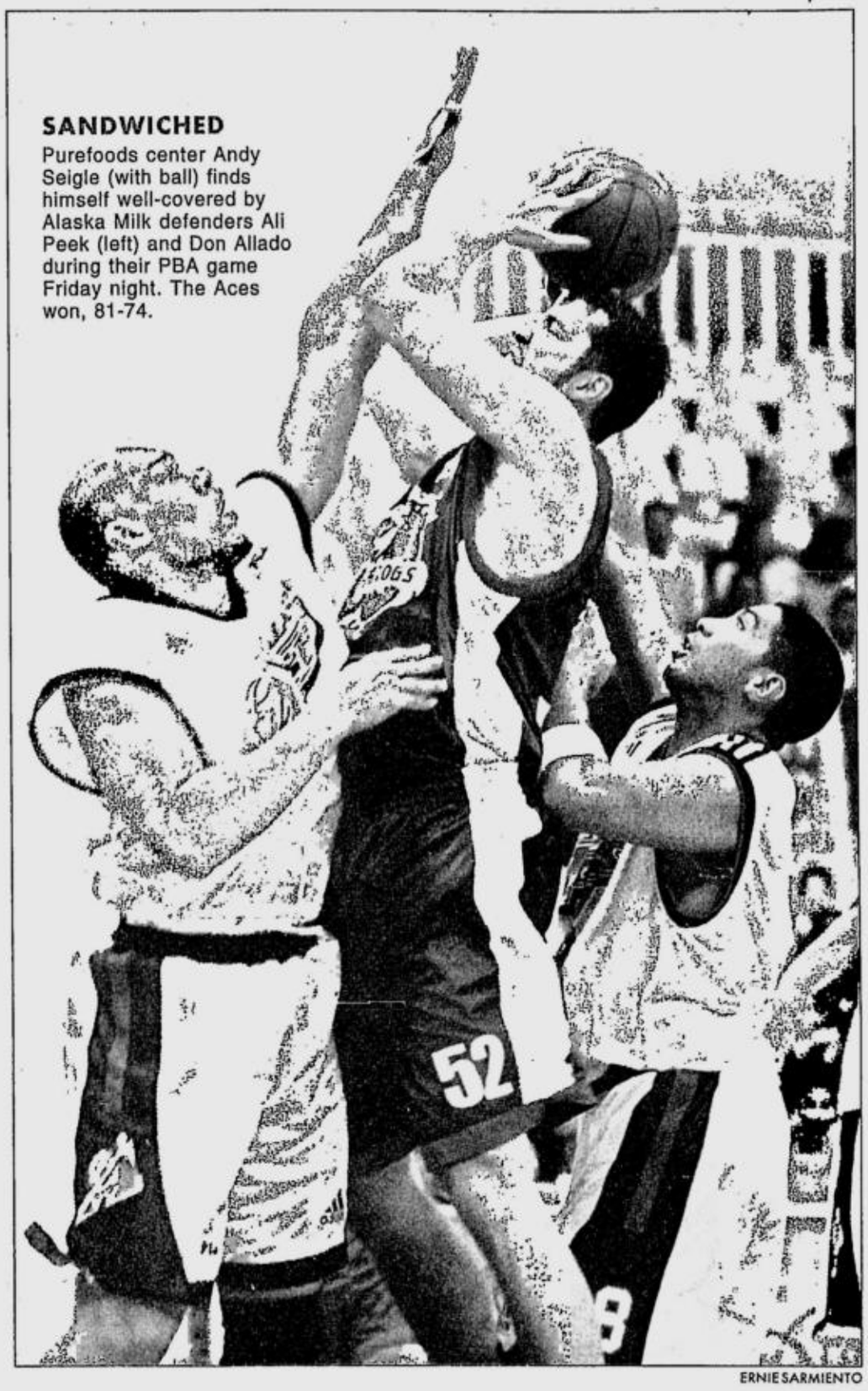
Project manager Lot Tan said six other categories will also be disputed in this annual series also supported by Match Box/Hot Wheels, Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Nokia Phils., and Eastway Racing Company.

The six other categories are Intercon, FSL Light, FSL Heavy, Cadet 85cc., Cadet 60cc and team race.

Among the karters to watch in the cadet class are Tyson Sy, who topped the 6th PIKF-Erap Cup karting competition late last year; and newcomer Buffy Laurel, grandson of the late Filipino race driver Dodjie Laurel.

Spicing up this year's series is the participation of three female karters—Bernadette Syquia, Pia Boren and Nikki del Rosario.

For details, call Rose Feria at the Carmona Circuit Phils. with tels. 817-2241 and 817-4988.



SANDWICHED
Purefoods center Andy Seigle (with ball) finds himself well-covered by Alaska Milk defenders Ali Peek (left) and Don Allado during their PBA game Friday night. The Aces won, 81-74.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Ana re-signs ex-UE star to bolster lineup

By Dennis U. Eroa

BUENAVENTURA

CROWD-DRAWER Ana Freezer Specialist got the big man it wanted and will no longer take a one-conference break from PBL action.

Former University of the East star Ruel Buenaventura, 6-foot-6, yesterday confirmed that he will rejoin his old teammates in the 2nd Chairman's Cup starting March 24 at the Makati Coliseum.

"I'm glad to be back. I owe it to my teammates and boss Rudy (Mendoza)," said Buenaventura, who had forgettable stints with Pop Cola and Red Bull in the pro ranks.

The 23-year-old Buenaventura played a crucial role in Ana's (formerly Dr. J Rubbing Alcohol) stunning win over powerhouse Tanduay in the 1998 Centennial Cup finals.

Buenaventura, who has been practicing for three days, admits he is still looking to regain his confidence after his experience with the pros.

"My confidence is still missing," said Buenaventura. "But this team has a special place in my heart and I'll do everything to give Ana another title."

Ana's participation in the coming conference was in doubt until the confirmation of Buenaventura's stint. Ana was left without a legitimate slotman when Marvin Ortiguerra joined Sta. Lucia Realty.

"I don't want to compete with team lacking a legitimate slotman. Ana endears itself to the fans due to its quality games," Mendoza said earlier.

The presence of Buenaventura now installs Ana as a legitimate title-contender. Mendoza also recruited playmaker Robin Mendoza, another member of the 1998 champion team.

Skipper Rey Mendez, Ronald Tubid, Joselito Villar, Ariel Capus, Ariel de Castro and Roland Pascual remain for Ana.

Like Buenaventura, the 5-foot-11 Mendoza never hit it big in the pros as he watched the action from the bench more often. His presence is expected to give Ana stability in the pointguard position.

Mendoza also announced the appointment of the battle-scarred Mendez as assistant playing coach. He mentioned youthful Jun Molina as probable replacement for Dante Gonzalgo.

GMA bet rules Cavite 9-ball meet

FRANKLIN Gultiano crowned himself champion after he ruled the San Miguel Bravo Rhum Cavite's Best in 9-Ball Inter-town Amateur Billiards League's "Battle of Champions" last Friday at the SM City-Bacoor in Cavite.

Gultiano, representing the town of General Mariano Alvarez, defeated James Galides of Tagaytay in the race-to-seven final, 7-3.

"I'm really focused to win the title, and I'm happy I did," said Gultiano.

Gultiano took home the top purse of P15,000 cash prize and a brand-new Minnesota cue stick. Movie actress Lani Mercado and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam presented him the championship trophy.

Galides pocketed P10,000 cash prize and a trophy.

Action superstar and Cavite Gov. Bong Revilla and SMB Bravo Rhum's Lito Geronimo and Tristan Monasterio graced the tournament, which was organized by the Board Member of Strike Revilla and the Strike Billiard Association in Cavite.

Other winners in the tournament, sponsored by Minnesota cue stick and La Tondeña Inc., were Vicente Cayanan of Dasmariñas, third place (P4,000 cash prize and a trophy) and Raymond Borja of Rosario, fourth place (P3,000 cash prize).

Iverson, Mutombo power 76ers

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored 41 points to make up for his team's lackluster defense as the Philadelphia 76ers held off the Washington Wizards 107-102 in the NBA Friday night.

Dikembe Mutombo had 16 rebounds and 14 points, including three key free throws in the final minute after Washington tied the game twice in the fourth quarter and closed to 102-100 with 1:19 left.

Richard Hamilton scored a career-high 34 points for Washington, which lost its sixth in a row. Mitch Richmond and Courtney Alexander added 17 points each.

SuperSonics 86, Pacers 83

In Indianapolis, Seattle blew a 21-point lead in the fourth quarter before Rashard Lewis hit back-to-back baskets and the SuperSonics held off Indiana.

Lewis finished with 18 points, while Gary Payton led the Sonics with 26 points and 10 assists.

The SuperSonics scored just 13 points in the fourth quarter, avoiding a season-low only when Shammond Williams hit two free throws with 14.1 seconds left. Reggie Miller and Jermaine O'Neal missed game-tying 3-pointers in the closing seconds.

Raptors 107, Nets 90

In Toronto, Vince Carter scored 38 points to become the Toronto Raptors' career scoring leader.

Carter, who passed former teammate Doug Christie on the scoring list in his third NBA season, gave the Raptors their first four-game winning streak since November.

The Raptors outscored the Nets 36-19 in the final quarter to hand New Jersey its 11th straight road loss. Toronto outrebounded New Jersey 54-31.

Celtics 103, Jazz 99

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 12 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter as the Celtics extended their home winning streak to seven games and defeated the Jazz in Boston for the first time since Dec. 20, 1991.

Pierce scored eight straight points in the fourth, including four straight free throws to give the Celtics a 99-93 lead. *AP*

Complete results:
Seattle 86, Indiana 83; Philadelphia 107, Washington 102; Toronto 107, New Jersey 90; Charlotte 105, Atlanta 99; Orlando 120, Cleveland 94; Boston 103, Utah 99; Miami 97, Detroit 93, OT; Chicago 81, New York 72; Minnesota 89, Denver 71; L.A. Clippers 88, Sacramento 81.

REGATTA 2001
LGT Bank Centennial (third from left), two-time champion of the 9th President's Cup Regatta 2001, is among the top three yachts in the PLDT race, first of five daily races in Manila Bay and Nasugbu Bay which ended yesterday at the Manila Yacht Club. Other top contenders in the open racing class are yachts Karakoa, Hi-Fidelity, Stila and DKF40.

Agassi beats friend, gains semis

SAN JOSE, California—Australian Open champion Andre Agassi advanced to the semifinals of the Sybase Open with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over his friend and hitting partner Sargis Sargsian.

Top-seeded Agassi improved to 10-0 this year in Friday night's lighthearted quarterfinal match, as girlfriend Steffi Graf looked on. Fans, including musician Carlos Santana, cheered for both the seven-time Grand Slam winner and his underdog opponent.

Serving with a 4-2 advantage in the second set, Agassi rallied for some time with Sargsian before the Armenian charged the net and fooled him with a short cross-court tap. Agassi, unshaken, went on to win the game.

The players got a laugh when a ball caromed straight up off Sargsian's racket _ and stayed up. The ball got caught in the overhead video scoreboard.

Top-ranked Agassi, who has won the Sybase four times, faces Jan-Michael Gambill in a semifinal match on Saturday.

Sixth-seeded Gambill defeated Spain's Juan Balcells _ who upset third-seeded Mark Philippoussis in a marathon match Thursday _ 6-2, 6-0 in the late match Friday night.

In an earlier quarterfinal match, Greg Rusedski used his size and power to upset Australian sensation Lleyton Hewitt 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

In Scottsdale, Arizona, the final of the State Farm Women's Tennis Classic will be an all-American affair. Monica Seles saw to that.

Seles, the last of four U.S. players to take centercourt for a quarterfinals match Friday, beat Magui Serna 6-4, 6-3 to join top-seeded Lindsay Davenport, No. 3 Jennifer Capriati and No. 8 Meghann Shaughnessy in the semifinals of the $565,000 event.

Seles, seeded second, struggled until her Spanish opponent faltered.

Davenport set up her latest showdown with Capriati by beating seventh-seeded Lisa Raymond 1-6, 6-0, 6-3. *AP*

Inter-cities chess on

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre lends prestige to the Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Championships when he accepted the challenge to skipper the Baguio City team in the annual bash which starts today at 9 a.m. at the Kaban ng Hiyas Auditorium, Mandaluyong City.

Torre, a resident of Baguio City for the last 18 years, joins the coutnry's two other GMs, Rogelio "Joey" Antonio and Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor in the annual event, as well as practically all International Masters and National Masters in the country.

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

PBA CUP

SMB's aim: Check slump vs Pop today

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

SAN Miguel Beer hopes to check its alarming skid against Pop Cola today, even as Tanduay Gold and Sta. Lucia Realty try to pull each other further down the standings in the PBA All Filipino Cup at Philsports.

The Beermen routed the Panthers during their first meeting, 85-79, but the effects of their back-to-back losses could be devastating for their morale, especially against a team whose main weapon is self-confidence.

Tanduay Gold, which occupies the lowest rung in the standings, can drag down Sta. Lucia Realty for some company in their 6:30 p.m. game.

However, the game is evenly matched considering that the Rhummasters are lacking in men in certain positions, while the Realtors are simply lacking in fire.

So far, the only reliable Realtor is Paolo Mendoza, who remains consistent amid spiritless performances of big shots Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino and the inconsistency of rookie sensations Jercules Tangkay, Francis Adriano and Felix Belano.

Red Bull prevails

Meanwhile, Batang Red Bull downed Barangay Ginebra, 79-72, to grab a piece of the leadership last night in their out-of-town game held in Iloilo City. The Thunder are now at 5-2, tying Shell, while the Gin Kings dropped to 4-3.

A win would give San Miguel a share of the lead with resting Shell Velocity and stabilize everything in the troubled Beermen's camp.

San Miguel fell to Mobiline and Batang Red Bull during its past two games, mainly because of its frail defensive stance, which coach Jong Uichico has been complaining about.

In those two games, SMB was extra slow in putting up double teams, purely relying on their offense to make things happen. Unfortunately, resident hitmen Danny Ildefonso and Danny Seigle weren't in their elements and the Beermen fell down with them.

"We are no longer the same San Miguel which thrives on defense and plays low-scoring games," said Uichico. "We must get it back."

And it must be right away, because the Panthers are no push-overs and their star-studded lineup could pull off everything at any given chance.

Johnny Abarrientos, Nelson Asaytono, Jojo Lastimosa, Rudy Hatfield and Poch Juinio may not play in sync all the time but their collective firepower could easily demolish the Beermen's shaky state of affairs.

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
Shell	5	2	Purefoods	3	4
Red Bull	5	2	Alaska	3	4
San Miguel	4	2	Mobiline	2	4
Ginebra	4	3	Sta. Lucia	2	4
Pop Cola	3	3	Tanduay	2	5

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)

4:15 p.m.—Pop Cola vs San Miguel

6:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Tanduay

Socsargen gets Bong

BY ROY LUARCA

THE SOCSARGEN Marlins may yet become the surprise package of the MBA's fourth season following their acquisition of veteran Bong Alvarez.

Agreeing to a cut in pay, the 6-foot Alvarez on Friday signed a one-year contract with the rebuilding Marlins.

"He (Alvarez) is going to provide us with offensive sock and experience," said Marlins owner Ben Solon. "If we find a dominant big man from the United States and a crack point guard then we'll be competitive."

The 33-year-old Alvarez brings to the Marlins an illustrious 10-year stint in the PBA where he wound up with averages of 16.9 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. Noted for his slam dunks and gravity-defying penetrations, Alvarez once exploded for 71 points, the second highest output ever by a local in the league.

Lured by the MBA in 1999, Alvarez also played for the Pampanga Dragons and the Pasig-Rizal Pirates, whose slot was taken over by the Marlins after taking a one-year leave of absence.

Other players in the Socsargen fold are 6-foot-6 Giovanni Pineda, formerly of the Cebu Gems, 5-9 Aldrich Reyes (Negros Slashers), 6-2 Paeng Santos (Davao Eagles), 6-4 CJ De Jesus (Davao Eagles), 6-5 Chandler Donaldson (Manila Metrostars), 6-5 Arnel Manalac (Phramaquick) and 5-9 Egay Echaves (Shark).

All set for Cebu basketball meet

ASIDE from the participation of Osaka Iridology, much of the focus will be on the simmering rivalry between M. Lhuillier Jewelers and Chariot Econo Cabs when the Cebu Basketball League President's Cup kicks off tomorrow (March 5) at the Cebu Coliseum.

CBL president Jonathan Guardo likened the Lhuillier-Chariot rivalry to that of Shark and Welcoat in the PBL.

Guardo said he expects the two teams to be the main crowd drawer of this event sponsored by Thirsty, Nature's Spring, Adidas, Coca Cola, Sunsport, POW Designs, Carmen Piramide of BBC's Printshop, Y101 FM, Charlie@Rhythms, Angel Radyo, Killer Bee, Spirit FM, DYRF and Freeman.

"Rivalry is healthy for the league. It attracts a sizable crowd and creates a lot of buzz. I expect full battle action when these two teams meet next week," said Guardo.

The CBL President's Cup will be telecast over SBN 6 starting tomorrow at 9 p.m.

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Contructing & Managing a Construction Bus....Mar. 7-8
Ticketing & Reservation in Travel Agency....Mar. 8-9
Accounting for Non-Accountants....Mar. 10-11
Preparation of Project Feasibility Study....Mar. 12-13
Basic Constrution & Estimating Guide....Mar. 12-13

FASHION, ARTS & CRAFTS
Basic Pattern Production....Mar. 6
Modern Giftwrapping/Packaging w/ Ribbon Techq....Mar. 8-9
Hair Cutting for Men & Women....Mar. 10-11
Basic Balloon Arts & Crafts....Mar. 11
Trendy Giveaways Souvenirs/Party Favors for all Occ..Mar. 13-14
Paper Recycling w/ Novelty Items ....Mar. 14
How to Make Your Own Poutpouri ....Mar. 14-15
Stuffed Toys Making ....Mar. 14
Wedding Flower Arrangement ....Mar. 14
Scented & Decorative Candle Making ....Mar. 17-18

SKILLS-POWER UPGRADING
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Word, Excel, Power Point Mar. 6-13
Web Page Designing Mar. 4&11
CD Tech. & Service Mar. 18-30
C Language Programming Mar. 5-9
Public Speaking Mar. 12-16

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Assortment of Fine Italian Cuisine....Mar 7
Specialized Character Design for Cake Decor....Mar 8
Sago Pearl Business....Mar 9
Miki, Canton Noodles & other Veg. Pasta Making....Mar 9
Native Ice Cream Production ....Mar 10-11
Beginners Cooking Course....Mar. 12-13
Chinese Cuisine....Mar 13
Fruit Juice & Concentrates....Mar 14
Sanzrival & other Ref. Cakes....Mar 14
Meatshop Operation & Meat Cutting Bus....Mar 15-16
Assorment of Muffins & Cakes....Mar 15
Siopao & other Dimsum....Mar 16
Basic Baking Course....Mar 17
Squid Ball, Fish Ball & Fishcraker Production....Mar. 18

CHEMICAL & INDUSTRIAL MGMT.
Herbal & Transparent Saop Production....Mar.10
Hydroponics Technology....Mar. 10
Silicon Rubber Molding for Candle, Soap & other Items..Mar 16
Cosmetic & Skin Care Products....Mar 17

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■ Two nabbed for cell phone pyramid scheme
A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

30 trucks of Metro Manila trash dumped in Batangas

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE LIPA Archdiocesan Environmental Concern Office (Laeco) yesterday reported that garbage loaded in at least 25 trucks had been dumped in a residential area in the Batangas town of Malvar, whose waterways flow to Taal Lake.

Fr. Lito Malibiran of Laeco said a fellow priest reported to the archdiocese early this week that a community situated between the towns of San Juan and San Andres has been stinking since last month.

Malibiran, a member of Gomburza, asked the Metro Manila Development Authority to look into the problem and identify the local governments or private garbage contractors that had been dumping in the province.

Malibiran said the garbage was secretly dumped at dawn, sometimes as early as 3 a.m., in the first week of February, but this report reached Laeco only recently.

"The residents have burned the garbage but there are still a lot left, and it's very bad for the community," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Malibiran said that since Malvar teems with rivers and creeks which flow directly to nearby Taal Lake, he is afraid that the garbage dumped in the area would have an adverse effect on the waterways.

"This is alarming," he said.

He said even Malvar Mayor Dory Villegas claimed she did not know of the dumping until recently.

The Provincial Environment and

30 TRUCKS/ A26

Mother of five gives other kids a happy family

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

TALES OF THE CITY

THEY are not hers, but Ginny Jugo fondly calls them "my babies." They are her foster children.

So far she's had six—a set of twin baby girls, two other girls, a boy, and, at present, 3-½-year-

MOTHER/ A26

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Cellular phones now also used in pyramid scheme

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE notorious pyramid scheme is now also being used by unscrupulous dealers in the cellular phone business, the Central Police District (CPD) warned yesterday.

CPD agents arrested two cellular phone dealers who sweet-talked two male students of the Far Eastern University (FEU) into investing more than half a million pesos in their scheme. The dealers failed to deliver the Nokia cell phones they promised the students at half the regular market price, said Chief Supt. Victor Luga, the head of the CPD.

Dealers Maria Theresa Calimlim and Maria Isabel Castronuevo were arrested after they allegedly tricked the two 17-year-old FEU students, both residents of Tandang Sora, Quezon City, into investing P540,000, Luga said.

The two women at first enticed the two young men to join their business by offering to sell the phones at almost half the market price, police said.

Operators of the pyramid schemes usually lure their prospective victims with huge returns on their investments. The big "profits," however, come from the initial investments of other victims.

When the culprits fail to find new investors to add more funds to the scheme, "the pyramid collapses," Luga said.

"The two boys at first gave a few thousand pesos for a few Nokia phones," he explained. "It proved to be a good investment then because the women gave them the phones at almost half their regular prices."

Encouraged by the profits they earned in their first deal, the two young men decided to invest more. They claimed they gave the two women P540,000 for 45 cellular phones.

But to their surprise, the women were able to deliver only 20 phones despite their repeated demands.

Police "invited" the two women to the Sangandaan police station where they said their business was "buy and sell through a pyramid scheme," Luga said.

The two students agreed to withhold charges against the two women, who promised to deliver the phones or return the boys' money as soon as possible.

"The complainants agreed that the suspects would settle the case in a matter of days, or they would pursue the case against them," said case investigator SPO1 Sotero Basilio. Luga warned other entrepreneurs who might be fooled into joining a similar scheme.

Iranian arrested for phone card theft

AN IRANIAN was arrested before dawn yesterday for allegedly stealing P11,000 worth of prepaid cellular phone cards in Malabon.

Ramezan Avasian, 54, of Ghuchan, Iran, who is staying at the Pension House in Mabini, Manila, went to a 24-hour convenience store on Naval Street in Barangay Flores, Malabon at about 2:15 a.m. and ordered 30 phone cards, SPO1 George Gubatan said.

But when store employee Michael Gerald Medina tried to collect payment for the 10 P500 and 20 P300 Smart prepaid phone cards Avasian ordered, the Iranian ran out of the store, police said.

Medina, 32, of Flores Street, Barangay Flores, said he chased Avasian and cornered him on General Luna Street, according to Gubatan. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Worker stabbed dead for running after GRO

LABORER Nestor R. Longcop would have been alive today had he followed his friends who left after finishing their drinks in a Quezon City bar yesterday morning.

But Longcop, of Area 5 Sapang Palay, Bulacan, decided to stay a while longer. At about 5:45 a.m., he was stabbed dead for running after guest relations officer Myrna Suarez, police said.

SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda identified one of the assailants as Romeo M. Tames, of Sitio E. Kamias, Sta. Cruz, Cogeo, Gate 2, Antipolo.

Police were able to identify Tames through an ID card he accidentally dropped during the melee at the Grace Videoke Bar on Interior Alley, Commonwealth Avenue, Barangay Holy Spirit.

Barrameda said Longcop's friends had finished their drinks and gone out of the bar in front of the Sandiganbayan building, leaving behind Longcop who was still talking to Suarez.

But their conversation turned ugly and Suarez stood up and moved to the table of Tames and his friends, Barrameda said.

Infuriated, Longcop allegedly took a beer bottle, smashed it and charged at the table of Tames' group, police said.

But because he was drunk, Longcop missed his targets. They instead ganged up on him, police said.

During the scuffle, Tames allegedly drew a fan knife and repeatedly stabbed Longcop before fleeing with his companions, witnesses told police.

Suarez told police that Longcop died where he fell inside the bar.
Philip C. Tubeza

Mother of 5 gives other kids a happy family

(From page A25)

old Carla.

"Carla was only 4 months old when she came to us," says Ginny, admitting she's partial to the girls. "I prefer infants because I love babies and I like taking care of them, molding them."

She and her husband Albert have three sons and two daughters of their own.

"We keep the children for more than a year," Ginny says, though Carla has been with them much longer than that. Carla's case is long-term because foster care usually covers six months.

Ginny became a foster parent in 1994 purely by chance. After reading an article on Cribs (Creating Responsive Infants by Sharing), a child caring agency, she decided to visit the agency with Albert.

"We wanted to take all of them home," says Ginny of the babies they saw. Because that wasn't possible, they chose instead to take care of the children one at a time.

Genuine love

Under the foster care program of NGOs such as Cribs, Parenting Foundation, CGM-Home of Joy and others including ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata, which launched its own foster care program last Feb. 9, anyone who qualifies can be a foster parent. A primary qualification is genuine love for children.

One must also have parental capability. Assessment and evaluation are done by a social worker and a foster care license is issued by DSWD.

Foster care is a planned period of substitute family care for a child when the child's natural family cannot care for him. It is temporary and its goal is to return the child to its biological family or to place the child in a permanent home with adoptive parents.

Foster care is concerned mainly with the welfare and the best interest of the child.

"Our role (as foster parents) is to care for as many children as we can and to give them love and a sense of security and belonging," Ginny says. Basically, what a child needs is a normal family life which the Jugos, including their five children, as a foster family, willingly and happily provide.

Advantage

Having grown-up children is an advantage, says Ginny. The eldest of the Jugo offspring is 30 and the youngest 24.

"From the start, they readily accepted having foster children at home," she says. Home for the Jugos is a picture-pretty multi-leveled structure in Ayala Heights, Quezon City.

"They learn to love the babies and take turns in playing with them and looking after them, especially when I have to be away," says Ginny, noting that the Jugo children have never shown any trace of jealousy with regards to their foster siblings.

Her son Alvier, the eldest child, says: "I like having the babies around. I definitely get attached to them. The hard part is when they leave. Sometimes I promise myself I won't get attached to the next one. But I do not see how one can detach oneself from a baby."

GINNY and Albert Jugo say their role is "to care for as many children as we can," including Carla. EDWIN BACASMAS

"I look at foster parenting as a privilege, a blessing," avers Ginny.

Angelica

She remembers Angelica who was 7 months when she took her from the agency. Like all the rest, there was no glitter in little Angelica's eyes, her skin was bad, and she was averse to human touch. Ginny was not aware that she was a child with a special needs.

Apparently nobody in the agency knew that Angelica had a hearing problem and she could see only with one eye. "A tiny hearing aid was made especially for her, but doctors couldn't do anything for her eye," says Ginny. Angelica now wears prescription glasses.

As volunteer foster parents, the Jugos are expected to shoulder all the expenses of the children who come under their care.

Ginny says she has particularly endearing memories of Angelica because so far, she has been the sweetest and the most lovable of her foster children. It broke their hearts when the girl left.

Angelica was the fourth child to be adopted by an American couple from Indiana. The adoptive parents keep in touch with the Jugos by way of letters and pictures.

The presence of babies in the house has a lot to do with the individual and collective happiness of the Jugos. "They have brought us closer," Ginny says. "After a while you realize that by taking care of them and loving them, you are getting more than you're giving."

Lack of awareness

Foster care, however, has not gained a strong enough foothold in Philippine society.

"Three is a lack of awareness," opines Ginny, who has so far convinced three of her friends to be foster parents themselves. She regularly attends workshops and seminars on foster care conducted by NGOs.

She hopes more people will be open to the idea of foster care.

The Jugos are now doting on Carla, a precocious toddler who has been with the family practically from the day she was born. It's amazing how easily they adapt and how swiftly they assimilate traits, mannerisms and habits of people around them, particularly the foster parents, says Ginny.

"Whenever you see the child happily playing, you feel peaceful," she says. "You know you've done the right thing, taking her under your wing."

But a foster parent also knows the arrangement is temporary. In fact, the program is premised on this. From the first moment of holding the baby in your arms and taking the baby home, you never forget that one day you will have to give it up. After seven years, the Jugos are no longer strangers to the trauma of separation.

Letting go

How do they let go? "We see to it that we have another child to take care of before we let go of one," says Ginny.

"The pain is there and it lingers," she adds.

The Jugos try to minimize the emotional impact and the drama by not prolonging it. Ginny herself tries not to be there during the final moments.

"I was not around when our little boy was fetched by the adoptive parents," she recounts. And it was just as well because the child had grown very attached to her. "I hate to imagine how it would have been if I had been present when they took him."

Even now when the Jugos know that the children have found permanent homes with their respective adoptive families, thinking about them still brings back the pain and brings tears to the eyes.

"We keep in mind that we did have them for a while," Ginny says. "They have left us a lifetime of happy memories."

Maid, 16, raped while trying to get wallet left in school

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A 16-YEAR-OLD maid on Friday lost more than the contents of her wallet when five men abducted her in Quezon City and took turns in raping her, police said yesterday.

The maid, of Scout Delgado Street, Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City, told police she was on her way to get her wallet which she had inadvertently left with the guard at Saint Mary's School during lunch that day.

The maid fetched her ward and they were already home when she realized that she forgot her wallet in the school, said investigator SPO4 Corazon Sandoval.

The maid told investigators that when she set out to get her wallet at about 4:30 p.m., five men on board a private jeep were already waiting for her along Scout Santiago Street.

Two of the men called out to her and tried to introduce themselves. But the maid ignored them and continued walking, Sandoval said.

"But the men did not simply want to meet her, they wanted her body," the policewoman said.

Two of the men ran after the girl, held her by the arms and dragged her to the jeep, police said.

"Three pedestrians saw the incident and heard her cries," Sandoval said. "But they got frightened and ran away."

The men forced her inside the jeep and blindfolded her, police said.

"She did not know where they took her," the policewoman said. "All she knew was that they were driving fast."

The girl said the men pointed a hard object on her side to prevent her from trying to escape.

When the jeep finally stopped, the men took her inside a house and began abusing her, Sandoval said. "They undressed her and forced her to lie on the cold cement floor while she was still blindfolded," Sandoval said.

One of the men pinned the girl's arms while two other men held her feet. The men proceeded to rape her, one after another, Sandoval said.

When they were finished, the men told her to dress and guided her back to the jeep.

The girl said the men dropped her off at the back of Saint Mary's School.

"When she took off the blindfold, it was about 7 p.m. and was already dark," Sandoval said.

The girl told her employer what happened and they reported the incident to the police. A medico-legal examination proved she was indeed raped, Sandoval said.

No water in Quiapo, Sampaloc

CUSTOMERS of the Maynilad Water Resources Inc. in San Miguel, Quiapo and parts of Sampaloc, both in Manila, will experience low water pressure because a Light Rail Transit II construction crew reportedly hit a 650-mm pipe at the corner of Legarda and Laurel streets.

A group of workers from Hanjin Construction who were working at the intersection accidentally struck the pipe yesterday morning, causing an unscheduled water service interruption, according to engineer Emer Mabunga of the Maynilad Primary Network Division.

As a result, Concepcion Aguila Street, First, Second and Third Streets in San Miguel and Loreto Street in Sampaloc and parts of Quiapo are experiencing low water pressure or have no water at all, Maynilad said.

The repair is expected to be finished by noon today and normal water service is expected to resume by 6 p.m., Mabunga said.

30 trucks of Metro . . .

(From page A25)

Natural Resources Office (Penro) of Batanagas confirmed that garbage was trucked from Metro Manila and dumped in the province after officials examined the "trash" on the site.

Malibiran said the Malvar site was private property whose owners do not live in the province.

He said Laeco has asked the provincial government to investigate how the dumptrucks were able to pass through the town and discharge their load on a vacant lot which local residents use as grazing ground for their farm animals.

The dumptrucks supposedly took the Calabarzon route before taking the less known roads in Lipa City to get to Malvar.

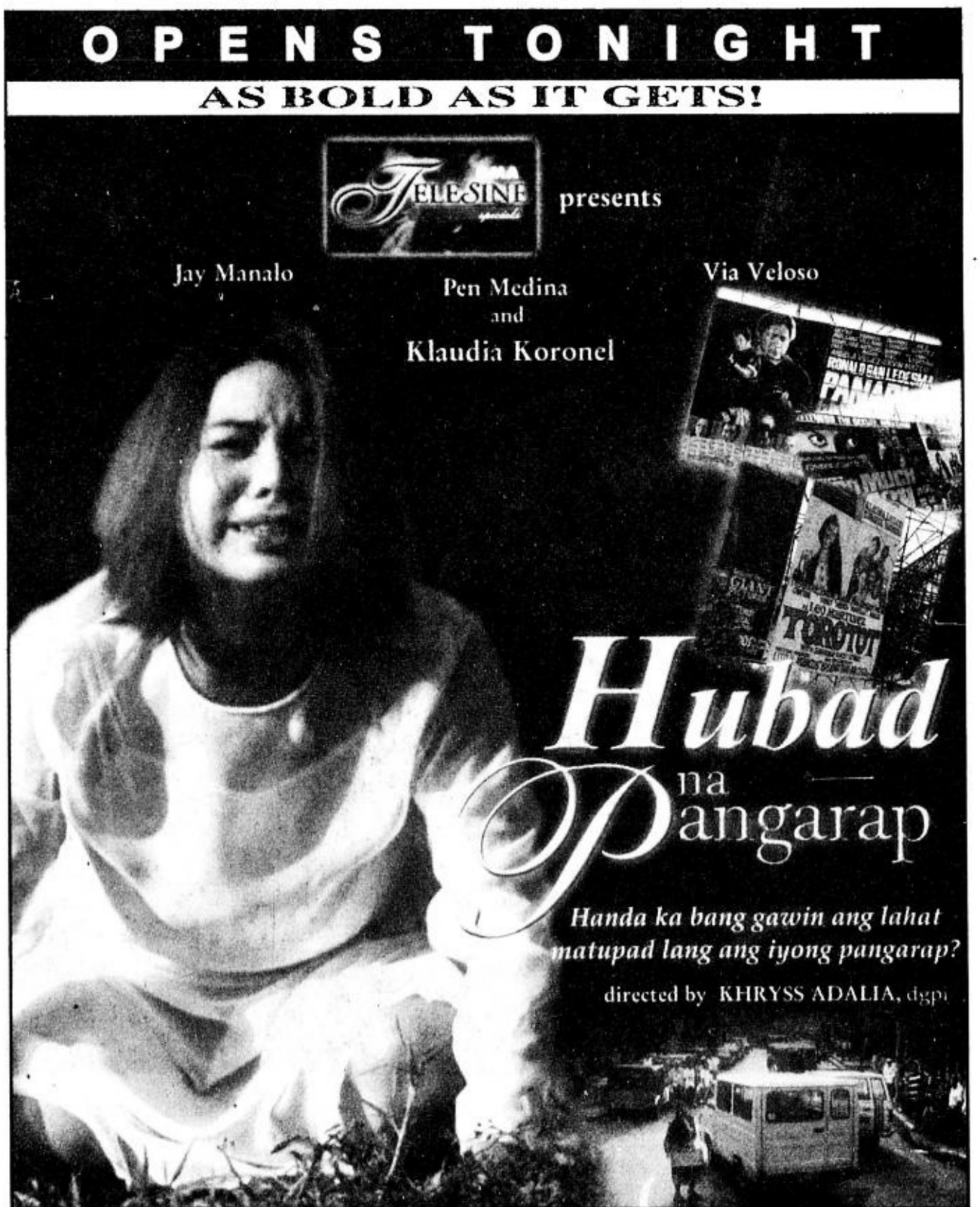
The MMDA, under newly appointed chair Benjamin Abalos, had vowed to resolve the garbage crisis in the metropolis which worsened when the San Mateo landfill was closed down on Dec. 31 without a clear alternative.

Sarosa, 72

CARMELINA Togle Sarosa died of cardiac arrest on March 2. She was 72. Her body lies at the Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel in Bacolod City.

She is survived by her eight children.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 7, at the Rolling Hills Cemetery in Bacolod City.



After death row, Eddie Garcia works with illiterate women

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IT HAS been more than a decade since **Eddie Garcia** directed a movie. His last directorial job was "Imortal," a drama starring **Vilma Santos** and **Christopher de Leon**, which earned Eddie a best director award in the 1989 Metro Manila Film Festival.

Eddie concentrated on acting, which gave him countless blockbusters. Along the way, he turned down a number of directorial offers.

However, Eddie found it hard to turn down the offer to direct "Abakada Ina." Even when he was about to start the Metro Manila Film Festival entry "Deathrow," he found a way to work on a few scenes for "Abakada Ina."

This early, movie lovers are anticipating Eddie's return as a director.

The movie is the story of an illiterate mother and battered wife (**Lorna Tolentino**), who rises above her misery.

The filming was stalled because Eddie had to work on "Deathrow." The shift from acting to directing was effortless for Eddie even when just days after wrapping up "Deathrow," he was already working behind the cameras for "Abakada Ina."

Produced by Viva Films, the movie made Eddie realize there are thousands of illiterate women around the country.

Eddie's works as a director include a number of acclaimed films, such as "Atsay" (**Nora Aunor**), "Sinasamba Kita" (Vilma and Lorna), "Magdusa Ka" (**Dina Bonnevie**) and "Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig" (Vilma and **Tonton Gutierrez**).

Eddie also directed **Sharon Cuneta** blockbusters for Viva Films.

"With 'Abakada Ina,' I feel I could come up with an enlightening and entertaining movie, a drama on a familiar situation," he said.

The screenplay of "Abakada Ina" is a collaboration of **Shaira Salvador** and **Ramon Rey Bayron**.

In the movie, Lorna is a mother who dreams of giving her three children the education she never had. **Albert Martinez** is her uncaring and ruthless husband.

Lorna achieved a grand slam in acting awards for "Narito ang Puso Ko" from Famas, Urian, Star Awards and Film Academy of the Philippines. She also won best actress trophies for "Maging Akin Ka Lamang" and "Luksong Tinik."

Albert won for "Segurista," "Sidhi" and "Rizal sa Dapitan," where he played national hero Dr. **Jose Rizal**.

Starring with them in "Abakada Ina" are **Matet de Leon**, **Aiza Marquez**, **Bobby Andrews**, **Hannah Camille Bustillos**, **Joanne Quintas** and **Lex Poe**, with **Nida Blanca** and .

"He attended to every single production detail," a crew member said of Eddie. "He was not above carrying props and arranging and rearranging them. He was very meticulous with the blocking and camera position, asking for as many takes as needed for a particular scene."

Hits from Globe

GLOBE has given away a special CD to its platinum subscribers. Aptly titled "Platinum Remakes," the CD contains revivals of hit tunes by various artists.

Imagine the pop band Workshy singing the standard "All in Love is Fair." The group also contributed another cut, "It's Too Late."

Kathy Troccoli sings the hauntingly sentimental "Never My Love" and **Sonia** has two songs, "Just the Two of Us" and "Fly Me to the Moon."

Other selections include "The Look of Love" and "Till There Was You" by **Patti Austin**, "Always Something There to Remind Me" by **Dionne Warwick**, "You Are the Sunshine of My Life" by **Pauline Wilson** and "At Your Best You Are Love" by **Aaliyah**.

The CD is said to be a limited edition, but we have yet to find out if it can be found in record stores. It is released by Universal Records.

EDIFYING. Garcia as director is not above carrying props, says a crew member.

Cruise is world's most powerful celebrity, says Forbes magazine

NEW YORK—Movie actor Tom Cruise, the star of "Jerry Maguire" and "Mission: Impossible," was named the most powerful celebrity in the world by the business magazine Forbes.

In Forbes' unique ranking, which quantifies celebrity by combining earning power and star power—including press clippings, television and radio appearances, magazine cover stories and web hits—Cruise vaulted into the top spot in the Celebrity 100 from 20th place in 2000.

Although he rated 13th overall in wealth, with earnings last year of $43.2 million, Cruise featured in a chart-topping 11 magazine cover stories. His messy public breakup with wife Nicole Kidman assured he had lots of newspaper ink.

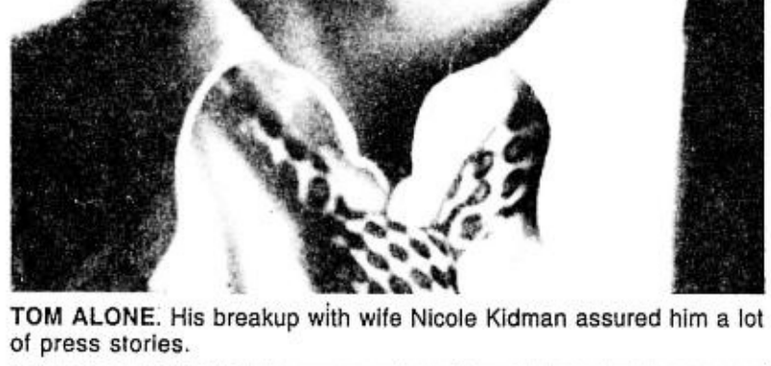
According to the list in the March 19 edition of Forbes, last year's No. 1, Julia Roberts, dropped to 16th, with earnings of $18.9 million, even though she was nominated for a best actress Academy Award for "Erin Brockovich."

Second on this year's Celebrity 100 list was golfer Tiger Woods, who earned $53 million last year, but had only five magazine covers.

He was followed by the Beatles, who last recorded three decades ago, but whose album of hits, "1," topped the pop charts in 24 countries last month. The Fab Four had an incredible 1.43 million mentions on websites last year.

"Not only did Cruise earn much more money in 2000 than in 1999 ($27 million), but his media exposure increased dramatically," Forbes said.

In 2000, Cruise racked up 11 cover stories and 139,000 web hits as opposed to one cover story and about 27,000 web hits in 1999. *Reuters*



TOM ALONE. His breakup with wife Nicole Kidman assured him a lot of press stories.

Who'll wear the 2001 Binibini crowns and who'll be the 'Thank-you-ladies'?

ANDAM

REYES

RIVERA

TWENTY-FIVE pretty young women are vying for the titles Binibining Pilipinas International, Binibining Pilipinas Universe and Binibining Pilipinas World for 2001, according to the Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc.

Coronation night will be on March 10 at the Araneta Coliseum to be hosted by David Bunevacz, China Co-juangco, Dingdong Dantes and former Bb. Pilipinas World Ruffa Gutierrez.

Guest performers are Janno Gibbs and the Hotlegs with the special participation of A-1. The event will be shown live on GMA-7.

The 25 official candidates are Precious Lara Quigaman, Laarni Rivera, Joan Marie Dimaliuat, Andrea Angela Silverio, Jenie Manuel, Rosario To-meo, Zorayda Ruth Andam, Michelle Re-yes, Angie Yambao, Maricar Balagtas, Sa-sha Cruzette Benito, Maricarl Tolosa, Ro-mina Mae Calizo, Darlene Pilar, Jeanie Andersen, Hergielyn Dimagiba, Christine Recio, Gemma Louise Heaton, Sherly Lou Franco, Imee Martinez, Gilrhea Quinzon, Aline Ramirez, Ella Fides Navarro, Jeremie Antiporda and Cherry Marie Tavera.

Tickets to the coronation night are on sale at all SM Ticketnet outlets, the Araneta booking office, and all SM Department stores.

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Wed Mar. 7 Vilma Santos, Dindo Fernando
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
GAANO KADALAS ANG MINSAN?
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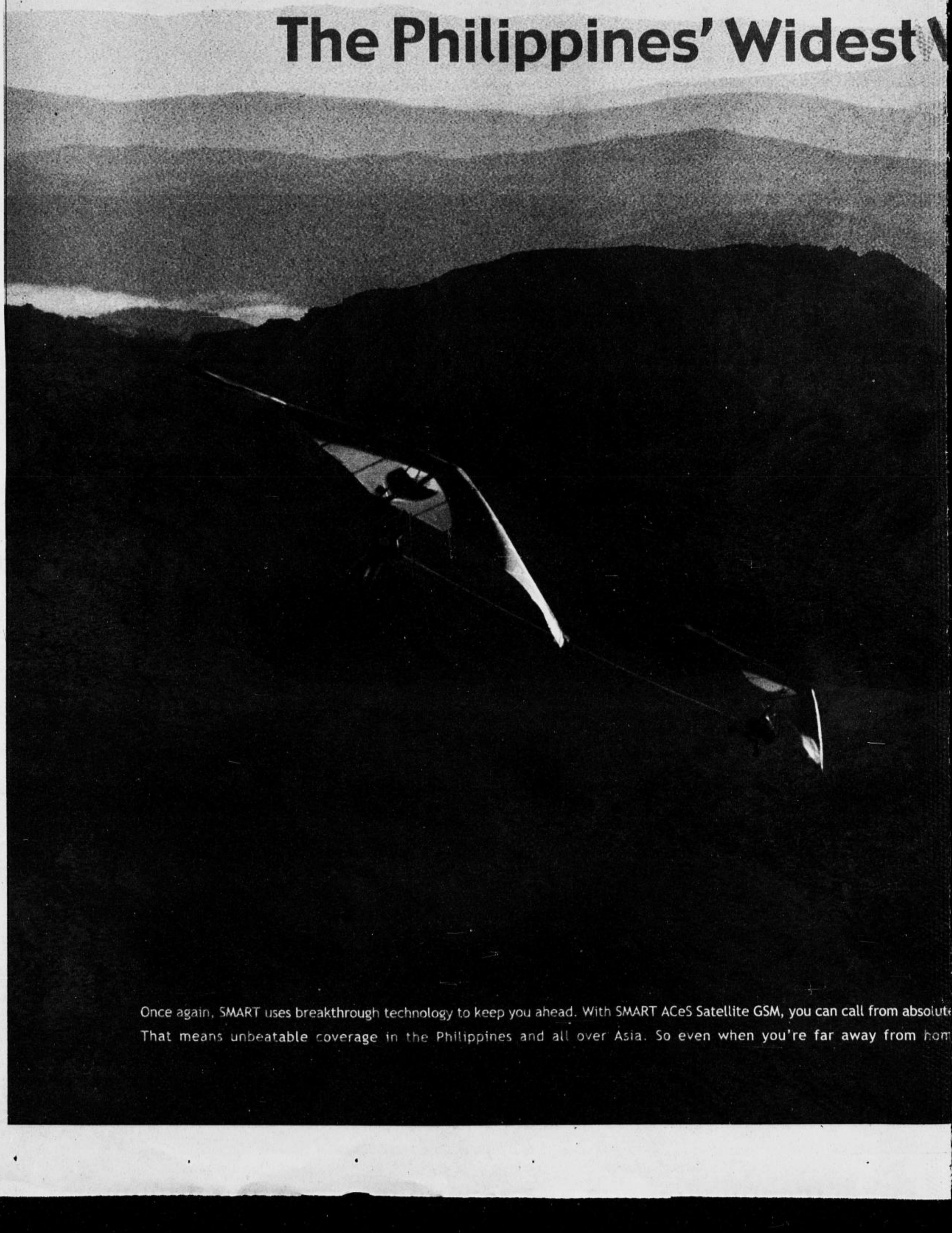

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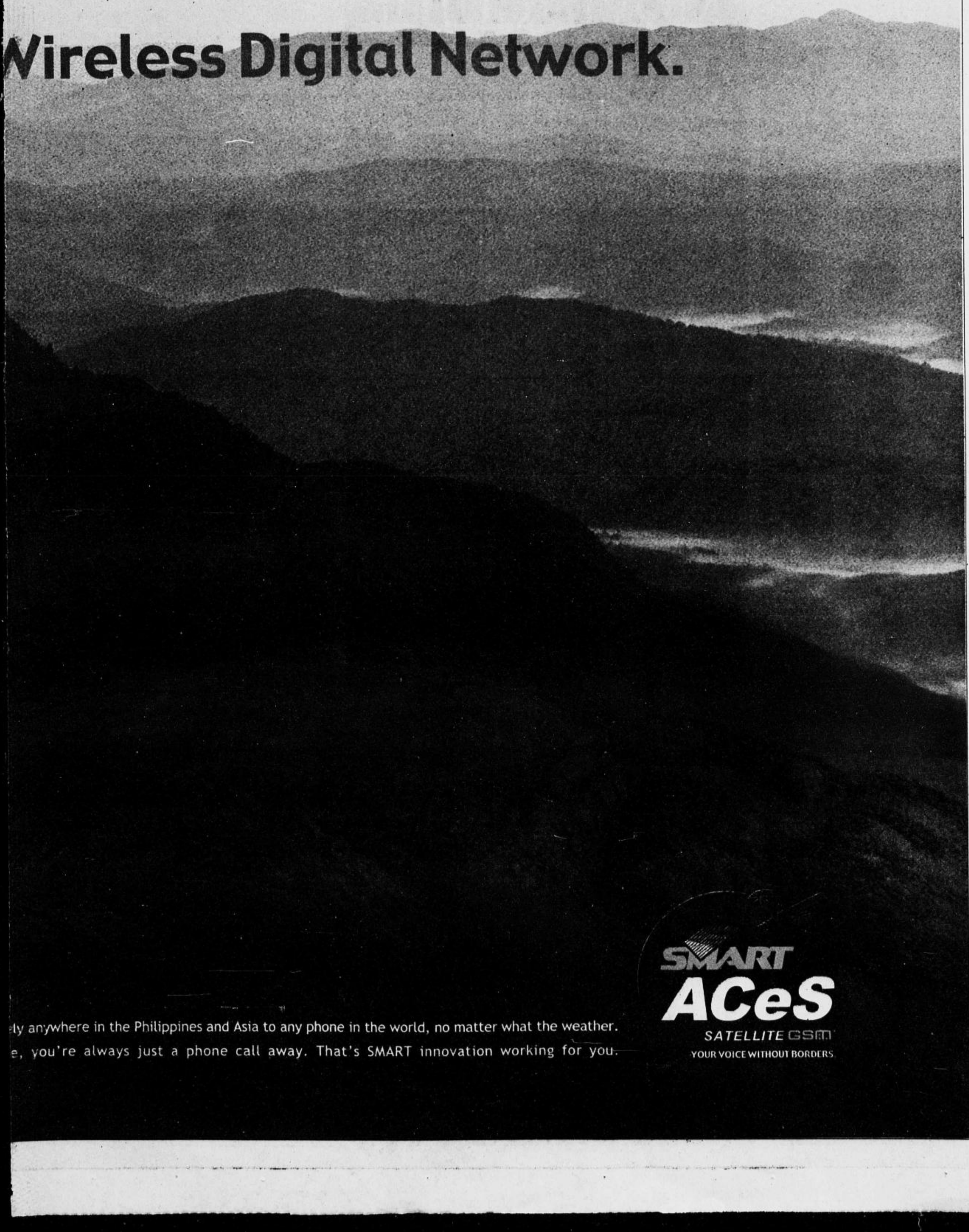

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Ai-Ai as 'Maarnie' in 'PP2' returns to Music Museum

DUE to insistent public demand, Ai-Ai de las Alas' "PP2: Remember Me" will have repeat performances on March 16, 17, 30 and 31, at the Music Museum.

The undisputable Queen of Comedy, Concerts has once again proven her drawing power with two nights of jampacked performance for "PP2: Remember Me."

Lending support to Ai-Ai are her special guests Philip Lazaro and the Whiplash Dancers.

The show pays tribute to the recent Edsa revolt, giving highlight to the different colorful personalities who gained prominence during the historic event.

Meet presidential mistress Maarnie Menriquez in person or learn the lastest dance step from Teysi Anino-Cometa, plus many, many more hilarious characters which only Ai-Ai can portray.

"PP2: Remember Me" is under the direction of Floy Quintos from the script of Ricky Lopez. Tickets to the concert are available at all National Book Store Ticketworld outlets (891-5610) and at Music Museum (721-6726 or 721-0635). Major sponsor for the concert is Bayantel 1237-00 Bayan Kollect sa Amerika at Canada, with Powerdance, Scarlet, Thai In A Box and Binalot as participating sponsors.

'Almost' premiere

OSCAR-NOMINATED writer-director Cameron Crowe ("Jerry Maguire") returns with another masterfully crafted film bound to figure prominently in the forthcoming Academy Awards, "Almost Famous."

Be among the first to watch this coming-of-age masterpiece, which won the Golden Globe best picture award. Campus Radio 97.1 and Columbia Pictures in cooperation with Channel [V] Philippines, hold an advance screening of "Almost Famous" on March 5 at Shangri-La Plaza Cinema 1.

Set in the psychedelic era of the '70s, "Almost Famous" chronicles the life of a 15-year-old music fan catapulted to the glamorous world of rock n' roll when he becomes a writer for Rolling Stones magazine.

The film introduces Patrick Fugit, with Billy Crudup ("Inventing the Abbotts") as the leader of a fast-rising band.

It also features unforgettable performances by Oscar awardee Frances McDormand ("Fargo") as the overprotective mother and Golden Globe best supporting actress Kate Hudson (daughter of Goldie Hawn) as the beautiful groupie Penny Lane.

Regular theater run of "Almost Famous" starts March 7.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR	4173860
1 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
2 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
4 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
5 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
6 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
7 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
8 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
SM CENTERPOINT	7149522 • 7161416
1 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
3 DTS	HANNIBAL
4 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
6 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BLONDIE
7 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
8 DOLBY SURROUND	WOMEN ON TOP
9 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
10 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
SM CITY FAIRVIEW	9360749
1 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
4 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
5 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
8 DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
9 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10 DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
11 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
12 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
SM CITY MANILA	5239240
1 DOLBY DIGITAL	WOMAN ON TOP
2 DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
3 DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
4 DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
5 DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
6 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
8 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
9 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
11 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
12 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR	8820950
1 ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
SM MEGAMALL	6331901 • 6329401
1 DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
2 DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	HOSTAGE
4 DTS	HANNIBAL
5 DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
6 DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
SM CITY NORTH EDSA	9295452
1 DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5 DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
6 DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
7 DTS	HANNIBAL
8 DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10 DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
12 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
SM SOUTHMALL	8066888 • 8068782
1 ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2 ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
4 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5 ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
7 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
8 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
9 ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
10 ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
TUTUBAN CENTER	2514302
1 ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BLONDIE
SM CEBU	2313876
1 DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2 ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3 ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
4 ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
5 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7 DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
SM ILOILO	3209422
1 ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2 ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
3 ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
5 ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
8 ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
SM PAMPANGA	7128015
1 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
2 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
3 DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
5 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
6 DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE

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2 HANNIBAL	2 WOMAN ON TOP in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 HANNIBAL in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 HANNIBAL in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 PAY IT FORWARD in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 102 DALMATIANS	3 HANNIBAL THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 FAMILY MAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 PAY IT FORWARD in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 CAST AWAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 OBJECT OF OBSESSION	4 TIGERLAND (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage	4 WOMAN ON TOP in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 HOSTAGE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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6 (SDDS/SDDS)	FAMILY MAN
7 (SDDS/DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
8 (DDS)	102 DALMATIANS
9 (DTS)	HOSTAGE
10 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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2	
3 (DTS)	HOSTAGE
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD

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2	TUHOG
3	HOSTAGE
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8	

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3	DEMON GATE
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5	TUSONG TWOSOME
6	BLONDIE
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8 (SDDS)	CAST AWAY
9 (DOLBY)	WOMAN ON TOP

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3	HANNIBAL
5	HOSTAGE
6	

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2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	HOSTAGE
4 (SDDS)	TUHOG
5	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
6 (DOLBY)	BLONDIE
7 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
8	ALWAYS A COP
9	THE SADE

Commonwealth
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1 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	HOSTAGE
4	BLONDIE
5 (SDDS)	HOSTAGE
6	TUHOG
7 (DOLBY)	CAST AWAY
8	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Ortigas
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1	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
2	BLONDIE
3 (DTS)	HOSTAGE
4	TUHOG
5 (SDDS)	HANNIBAL
6 (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
7 (DOLBY)	TUSONG TWOSOME

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1	HOSTAGE

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HOSTAGE

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Dilson	TUHOG
Lords	BLONDIE
Jennet	HOSTAGE

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1	HANNIBAL
2	HOSTAGE
3	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	TUHOG

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	HOSTAGE

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	HOSTAGE
2	TUHOG
3	BLONDIE
4	HANNIBAL
5	TUSONG TWOSOME

Divisoria Mall
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2	BLONDIE
3	TUHOG
4	TUSONG TWOSOME
5	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
6	ALWAYS COP

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2	HANNIBAL
3	BLONDIE

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2	HOSTAGE
3 (DTS)	HANNIBAL

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1	HOSTAGE
2 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
3 (DOLBY)	HANNIBAL
4	DEMON GATE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HANNIBAL
2	BLONDIE
3	TUHOG
4 (DTS)	HOSTAGE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HANNIBAL
2	HOSTAGE
3 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
4	TUSONG TWOSOME
5	DEMON GATE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1	HANNIBAL
2	HOSTAGE
3	PAY IT FORWARD

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	HANNIBAL
2	HOSTAGE
3	SNATCH

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	HOSTAGE
3	TUHOG

Morales Cinema
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1	HANNIBAL
2	HOSTAGE
3	FAMILY MAN

Sunshine
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1	HOSTAGE
2	TUHOG
3	BLONDIE
4	TUSONG TWOSOME

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	HOSTAGE
2 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME

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(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	HOSTAGE

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1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	HOSTAGE
3	TUHOG

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1	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	TUHOG
4	HOSTAGE

Berma
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1	
2	

CitiMall
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1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	BLONDIE
3	HOSTAGE
4	HANNIBAL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HANNIBAL
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	HOSTAGE
4 (DTS DIGITAL)	PAY IT FORWARD

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HOSTAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HANNIBAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TUHOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SNATCH
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HANNIBAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLONDIE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
MIRAMAR	GATAS / MY PRIVATE TEACHER
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ROBEN	HOSTAGE
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QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	ANAK NG KAND
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	BLONDIE
QUEZON-1	HANIBAL
REMAR	HOSTAGE
REMAR-2	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	TUHOG
OCEAN CINEMA-A	BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
OCEAN CINEMA-B	KATAYAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-2	THE CASTLE OF SAND
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	DEMON GATE
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-12	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	TUSONG TWOSOME
LORES	
CINEMA-2	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-3	TUHOG
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CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-3	PAY IT FORWARD
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Watch out for the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Hannibal Lecter banks his fires

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE told that "Hannibal," the sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs," has had the third biggest opening ever in film history. That's a huge achievement specially for a sequel, since follow-up movies tend to perform more poorly than the original hits.

But "Hannibal" has bucked that trend, so there must be something about it that has lured millions of viewers into wanting to revisit its criminal world. We know, of course, that its most powerful magnet is the perversely fascinating character of its resident "evil genius," the brilliant albeit perverted serial killer, Dr. **Hannibal Lecter**.

The movie's producers know this better than most, which is why they've made Lecter's first name the title of this sequel. As in Hannibal the Cannibal, of course!

Also, to even up the dramatic ante, they've cast the estimable actress, Julianne Moore, as Lecter's "fascinating nemesis." **Anthony Hopkins** (Lecter) and **Julianne Moore**? That sounds really promising—but the actual movie itself turns out to be less dramatically eventful and compelling than expected.

Before firming up our conclusions, let's see where the sequel goes: It starts a decade after the first movie's events, and by this time, Lecter has created a new identity for himself as an art historian in Florence, Italy.

He continues with his cannibalistic murders, but quietly, so none of the people he works or socializes with is aware of the terrifying menace in their midst.

Lecter would have gone scot-free were it not for one of his victims, the very wealthy **Mason Verger**, who has been horribly disfigured and wants to avenge himself on his would-be killer.

Being brilliant in his own right, he knows that, to get Lecter to blow his cover, he must be tempted by an especially attractive bait: FBI agent **Clarice Starling** (Moore).

For her part, Moore has never gotten Lecter out of her mind. So, when the opportunity presents itself for her to ferret him out, she acts with the speed and thoroughness of a true professional, despite her diminished status at the FBI due to a number of internal wranglings.

To complicate matters, an Italian investigator also get in on the action, getting part of Verger's reward money when he not only secures Lecter's fresh fingerprint but helps effect his capture as well.

Then, before Verger can exact his vengeance by feeding Lecter to some carnivorous pigs (they've been trained to like the taste of meat), Starling swoops down to "rescue" Lecter. This is a baffling development that leaves viewers high and dry.

Before the film ends, however, it comes up with a whopper of a scene involving **Ray Liotta**'s character snacking on his own brain (!) so the movie does close in a very striking, if potentially off-putting, manner.

Plot elements aside, what's this sequel really about? It develops the unique attraction-repulsion relationship between Lecter and Starling to the far-out point where the serial killer is saved from death by the FBI agent.

Director Ridley Scott also has a grand time laying on layer upon layer of atmosphere and ironic counterpoint. The choice of Florence for the sequel's setting is acutely right for these effects, because in the legendary city lies squarely the cusp of the highest art and the darkest political and moral conundrums.

So, "Hannibal" is a dark feast for the eye, while the heart instinctively flinches at the threat of perversity and death pulsing behind its most breathtaking vistas.

This unusual combination is enormously arresting, but after a while, we sense that not much else is going on—and worse, that Lecter has banked his fires. He's still as evil as ever, but his heart no longer seems to be in what he does.

Perhaps he's merely grown older and more weary of forever staying one step ahead of his victims and the law. Or, since the sequel goes through pretty much the same territory as "The Silence of the Lambs," perhaps Lecter's bloodily "artistic" murders have been diminished by overfamiliarity into mere artifice?

Not even the focused portrayal of Anthony Hopkins can breathe terrifyingly passionate life anew into Lecter's ebbing sense of evil.

Moore's Clarice Starling is more textured than Jodie Foster's, but she can't sufficiently energize the movie on her own.

"Hannibal's" occasionally hypnotic visuals and stylishly grotesque sense of evil make for compelling viewing, but some of the chill is gone and the proceedings are more polished but less scary, this second time around.

Quote, unquote

CHER: The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing—and then marry him!

Goethe: love is an ideal thing, while marriage is a real thing. A confusion of the real with the ideal never goes unpunished.

Peter Devries: The difficulty with marriage is that we fall in love with a personality, but must live with a character.

Zsa Zsa Gabor: I want a man who's kind and understanding. Is that too much to ask of a millionaire?

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Must-see film on sex & rock 'n roll

'Almost Famous' opens Mar 7

In the tradition of Cameron Crowe's Oscar-nominated JERRY MAGUIRE, ALMOST FAMOUS is a coming-of-age tale that is intelligent, well-written and infused with humor in unlikely places.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Academy Award nominee writer/director, ALMOST FAMOUS is the story of an unabashed rock 'n roll music fan tasked to write for Rolling Stone magazine in the '70s at age 15. As he joins the band Stillwater on tour, he befriends the band members and their groupies, and grows up, losing his virginity along the way.

ALMOST FAMOUS won a Golden Globe **BEST PICTURE** Award (Musical/Comedy), and 4 Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay, Editing, and Supporting Actress for 'Kate Hudson and Frances McDormand. The movie also stars Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Patrick Fugit, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.

Embraced by critics, ALMOST FAMOUS is described as "absolutely fabulous," "honest and brilliant," "bighearted and bittersweet," and "filled with splendid performances."

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THE FAMILY MAN - P 13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	CAST AWAY - P 13 10:20, 1:05, 3:50, 6:35, 9:20	HANNIBAL - R 18 11:35, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15

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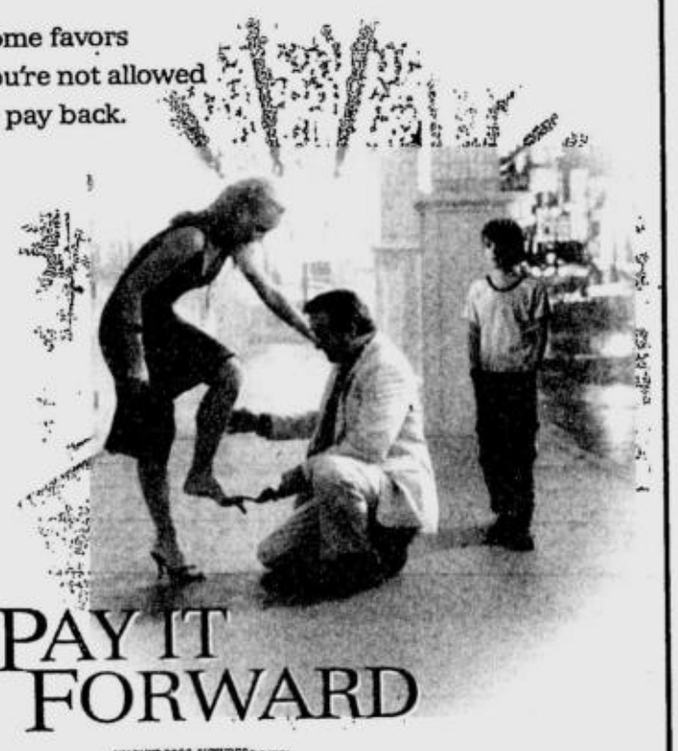

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89.9 MAGIC

Pinoy Blockbuster airs drama about troubled marriages

AWARD-WINNING actress Glydel Mercado teams up with Mike Magat and Adonis Laxamana in the Sunday blockbuster premiere of "Nakawin Mo ang Puso Ko," a drama about troubled marriages, 9 tonight.

Mercado is a dissatisfied woman trapped in an unhappy marriage with a hopeless mama's boy (Lacsamana). All she wants is for him to keep his promise of moving out of his mother's house. But her husband always seems to come up with excuses. She soon gets fed up with the situation and seeks comfort in the arms of a taxi driver (Magat) whom she meets while manning her sister's store. She begins to become dependent on their carnal affair and gets herself into more trouble.

The presentation is another exclusive movie event from Pinoy Blockbuster Channel available on SkyCable, Suncable and other quality cable operators nationwide. For comments and suggestions, e-mail pinoy @sky.pinoycentral.com.

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COLIN FARRELL

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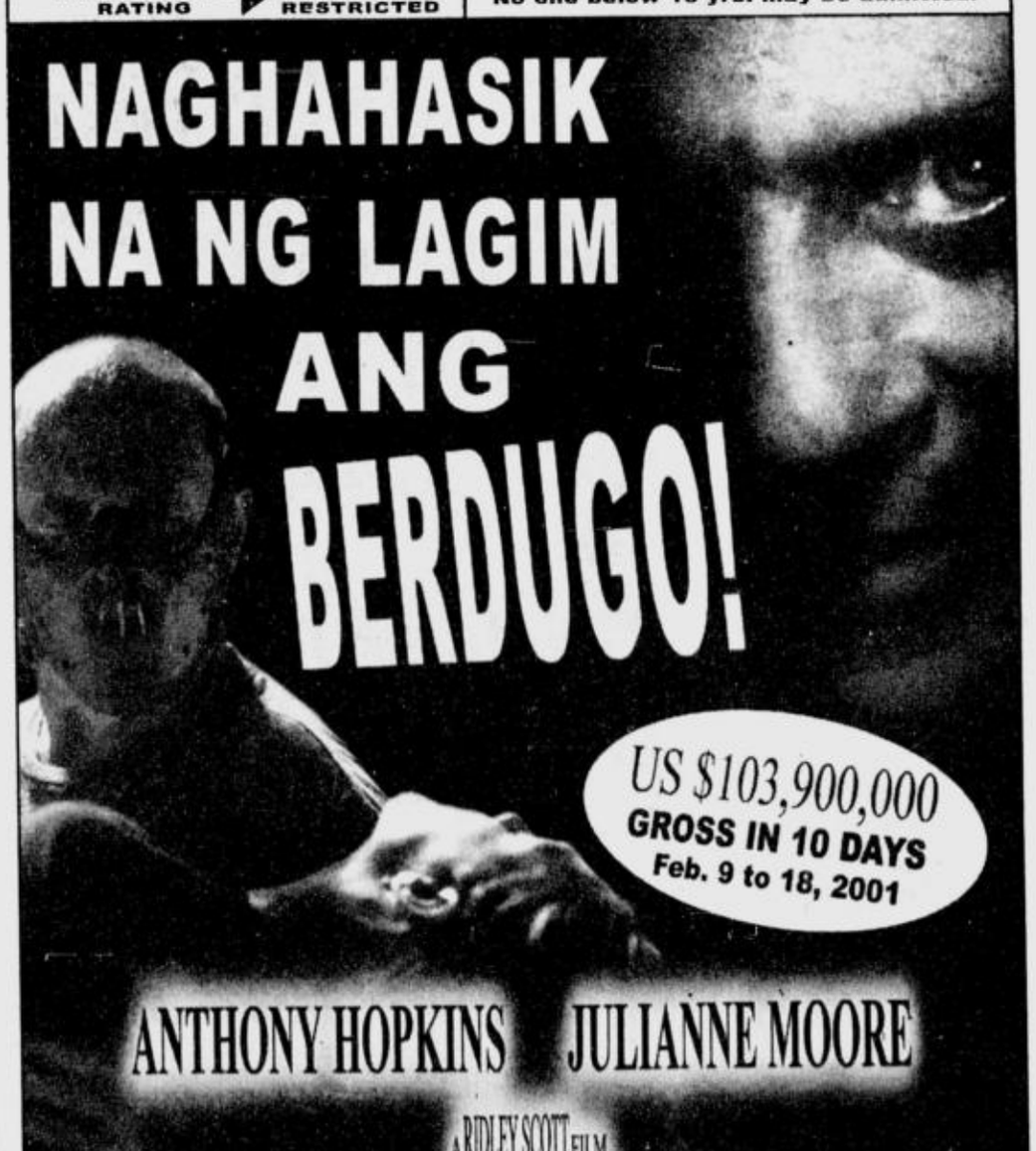

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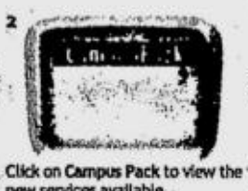

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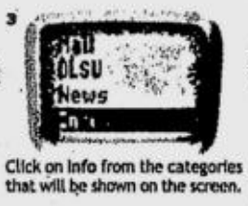

Click on Info from the categories that will be shown on the screen.

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Click on Entertainment.

5

Click on Reserve Seats and a list of movie theaters will be shown. Choose Glorietta 4, follow the instructions on making reservations and send. Then wait for the confirmation message.

Via the familiar text-based key words of ***InfoText***

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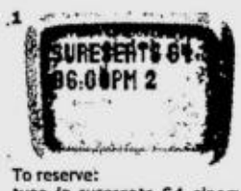

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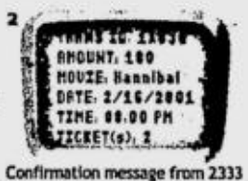
type in sureseats_G4_cinema number_time_number of tickets and send to 2333 (ex. SURESEATS G4 3 06:00pm 2) and wait for reply.

2



Confirmation message from 2333 will read: "trans ID_total price_movie title_date of screening_quantity of tickets_if guaranteed seats, row & seat no."(ex.TRANS ID:12830 AMOUNT:180 MOVIE:Hannibal DATE:2/16/2001 TIME:08:00 PM TICKET(s):2) Save this reply for validation at the Sureseats booth.

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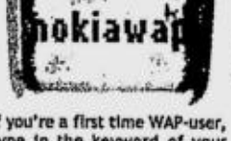

If you're a first time WAP-user, type in the keyword of your phone type* and send to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

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You will then see a prompt advising that you are being connected to the service.

4

Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on New Sites or City Guides, then to Sureseats.com and wap away.

*The keywords are:

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COO finds calm amid chaos

MERALCO COO Jesus P. Francisco has relearned the art of keeping calm despite pressures at work. ROMY HOMILLADA

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

IT IS not easy to sit behind the reins of the Manila Electric Co., the country's largest electricity distribution firm, not when the power sector is heading into a maelstrom of changes with the imminent restructuring of the once highly regulated industry.

Jesus "Chito" P. Francisco, Meralco chief operating officer and executive vice president for operations, admits that Meralco has been under considerable pressure these past five to seven years to prepare itself well for the entry of competition in the electricity distribution business.

"Whatever happens we have to take it on stride because no amount of preparation is enough when the real thing is here," notes Chito who would be marking his 30th year with the company this June.

Chito, however, does not strike an observer as someone who has been dealing with pressure for the past 30 years. He still looks young and handsome for his age and he never fails to smile at people who come up to him for advice or consultation.

Chito attributes his peaceful countenance to keeping a level head when challenges arise. He has also learned and re-learned the art of keeping a calm disposition as he heads Meralco's services and maintenance offices.

Chito says that he would not have survived years of dealing with erring bill collectors and irate customers, power interruption complaints due to faulty lines, among others, if not for the inner peace he gets primarily through meditation.

He points out that "survival" now means keeping a healthy diet for the body, mind and spirit—from eating nourishing foods and exercising, to ingesting inspiring readings and movies, to tuning to uplifting music.

Though Chito's busy schedule seldom permits him to play a game of golf and lawn tennis, he makes it a point to do Qi Gong or Tai Chi and Pilates stretching exercises even at his office.

"Doing Qi Gong or Tai Chi alternately twice or thrice a week for at least 15 to 30 minutes is a way of

COO/ B2

Turner reflects on his new role –and his legacy

ATLANTA—In a sprawling office perched atop an empire he no longer rules, the man once called Captain Outrageous is cowering—chin on his knees, hands clasped over his head.

Ted Turner is obsessed with nuclear weapons, with their potential for blowing the world into bits, even after the Cold War. At the moment, he is demonstrating a 1950s civil-defense drill for schoolchildren: "Duck and cover," he says.

Ten years ago, Turner ducked from no one. He was the self-styled "Mouth of the South," Time's Man of the Year, the mogul who turned the globe into a village that watched itself on cable 24 hours a day.

Now, his title is vice chairman and senior adviser of AOL Time Warner, a corporate monster two mega-mergers removed from swallowing up the broadcasting empire that bore his name.

"If only I had a little humility," Turner once said, "I'd be perfect."

And now he has his wish.

Most of the pictures and framed magazine covers in Turner's penthouse office at CNN Center are years old, his hair no darker than a salt-and-pepper mix. They show a different man—the one who had to apologize for calling Christianity a religion "for losers." The one who compared Rupert Murdoch to Hitler.

Today, Turner's hair is white. And the man who vowed CNN would be on the air until the end of time talks in vague references to the end of his own.

"I'm 62 years old," he said flatly in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I'm closer to the end than the beginning."

It is a strange sound—an admission of mortality from the man credited with changing television forever and helping make Atlanta the capital of the New South.

Along the way, Turner became a symbol of money and power. It was never clear which he wanted more.

That all changed in the mid-1990s, when Turner became a player in billion-dollar corporate mergers. He traded control for cash, piling up a $9.1-billion fortune while loosening his grip on his own kingdom—and watching his firecracker reputation slip away.

First he folded Turner Broadcasting System into giant Time Warner, accepting an unfamiliar No. 2 role and becoming the largest single shareholder of the world's biggest media and entertainment company.

"When he merged with Time Warner, it was almost, I think, treated with a very subtle kind of disrespect," said Reese Schonfeld, who helped Turner launch CNN in 1980. "They honored most of his wishes and sneered at him behind his back."

Then America Online swallowed Time Warner whole, and Turner became a vice chairman, an adviser, and—many would argue—a figurehead. He's watched as the new corporation has divvied up his creation and fired some of his closest friends.

The AOL announcement came just days after Turner and actress Jane Fonda made their separation public, breaking up one of America's best-known couples.

Schonfeld, who recently published a book lashing out at CNN as a bold idea that has wasted away to failure, said Turner knew his life—business and personal—was changing in the late 1990s.

"Ted is a very smart man," he said. "I feel certain that he knew what was going on and was happy enough to end this. I think he just started looking for other fields."

He was a man with nothing to do—and billions of dollars to do it with.

Listening to words come out of Ted Turner's mouth is like watching water come out of a kinked garden hose. The information trickles out in stops and starts, unpredictable.

Asked about his role in AOL Time Warner, he freezes and folds his arms across his tie, which features a blinding collaboration of foreign flags. "I've talked enough about that," he says sharply.

He will not say even that much about the end of his marriage; it is one of the ground rules for this interview that the subject not be raised.

But ask him about all the money he is giving

TURNER/ B2

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Bringing spirituality to the workplace

HAVE you achieved a measure of success in your career and life, yet still feel that something is missing?

Not only are we constantly faced with life-changing choices, we are overwhelmed, stressed out and tired of grueling workweeks. We are chained to computers and cell phones that sap our humanity.

Sure, your office helps you cope with modern-day difficulties by providing seminars on stress and time management, team building, personality development and technical skills training. But is it be possible that what you are missing is a program that will help you, not only revive your humanity, but more importantly, develop your spirituality?

The missing piece

The missing piece in a holistic value formation that you are looking for can be provided by the Evangelion Foundation Inc. (EFI), a non-stock, non-profit organization that has been helping hundreds of people in the corporate world find meaning in their work by coming into a personal relationship with their Creator.

Since the Evangelion was founded three years ago, it has offered to various companies a value formation seminar on personal relationships with a spiritual dimension entitled "Empowering Decisions to Change (EDC)." As the course title suggests, it helps participants strengthen their willpower to translate into action their numerous resolutions to change for the better.

According to Rev. Fr. Edwin Mercado, Decisions to Change is a seminar designed to help participants go through a process of self-awareness. "With the help of facilitators and resource speakers, participants are able to trace the growth and development of their self-image."

Mercado is the program director of the EFI, a non-stock, non-profit organization which conducts the seminar.

"They relate very well to the story of Artemio," says Father Ed. "It is a tale of a miserable beggar with a dirty bowl that he used when asking for alms. He felt humiliated every time he extended the bowl to others, more fortunate than himself, for extra change. He thought it was the only thing he could do. It took an antique dealer to discover that the bowl he had all along was made of gold."

Father Ed points out that EDC provides the initial step toward discovering the "gold" in each one of us. This, he says, is a process of self-awareness.

"Very often, one's self-image is a result of one's reactions to relationships," explains Helen Lastra, EFI assistant program director who was responsible for developing the seminar module. "Conversely, it is through self-awareness that we also learn to appreciate the importance of meaningful relationships," she adds.

A person also reacts to issues in his environment, and the manner by which we behave toward a certain concern is a display of our overall attitude. Helen says this attitude can also be that factor which prevents us from relating meaningfully with one another.

To complete the process of self-discovery, the seminar examines the nature of the human person. "The human person is an embodied spirit," explains Father Ed. "Since the human body is limited in its capacity, the person's deepest source of happiness is rooted in his interior conviction, " he adds. The search for happiness, meaning and love is the search of a human person for Someone who can be his Center.

"It is through a personal and intimate relationship with God," Father Ed stresses, "that we discover the fullness of life. The way we look at ourselves, our relationships and our whole attitude toward life changes when we respond to God's call," he says.

Facilitators from the corporate world

Father Ed and Helen stress that it is necessary that they come to the seminar with open hearts and minds. "There is a lot of introspection and sharing," they say. "The facilitators guide the participants through the process. That is why we make sure that our facilitators are experienced in dealing with people," Father Ed points out.

Most of the resource speakers are early retirees from the corporate world who have come to realize that money is not the end-all and be-all of life. "We have found meaning in personal relationships with our Creator," says Helen.

Father Ed, who is the resource person for spirituality, is no stranger to the business world. A degree holder in Business Management from the University of the Philippines, he helped run the family's printing business before priesthood beckoned.

Helen, who heads module development, is a graduate of BSC, Accounting, who then took a Master's Degree in Education, Major in Child Development. She has been involved in evangelization efforts for many years. She is assisted in developing modules by Cristina "Toots" de Leon, who was vice president for finance in a computer company before joining Evangelion, and Raffy Mendoza, a certified public accountant who teaches financial management at the Ateneo Graduate School and the Miriam College.

Christine Feria brings to Evangelion her vast experience in marketing. She worked for 14 years with a large multinational pharmaceutical company from which she retired late last year as VP.

While each of them applies his or her respective expertise in their work at Evangelion, they also share personal stories during seminars on how they came to a covenantal relationship with God. They sometimes even act as facilitators. Among them is broadcast journalist Dada Lorenzana-Santiago who also worked for several years in some of the country's top multinational advertising agencies.

Father Ed is proud to say that participants leave the seminar understanding themselves more clearly. A bank management trainee told him that the spiritual experience made her "whole" once more. Father Ed also quotes a president of a computer company who said that "through your help, my staff now have a better understanding of Jesus, our CEO."

Companies that have invited Evangelion to conduct EDC seminars noted increased morale among their employees. They further noted improvements in productivity and efficiency. They have also observed heightened cooperation and harmony in the workplace.

Gift from stewards of wealth

The good news is that Evangelion's seminar can be availed with no obligation. Evangelion calls it a gift.

The EFI came into being three years ago when the real estate company, Property of Friends, managed by Guillermo Choa and his wife, Cathy, decided that building shelters and developing communities for their customers was not enough. Active members of the Opus Dei and firm believers in the teaching that "we are mere stewards of the wealth that God had entrusted to us," they determined that part of their company's earnings ought to be set aside for worthwhile social endeavors.

It seemed like an answered prayer when Gerry had a chance meeting with Father Ed who described to him his long cherished dream of evangelizing in the marketplace. Father Ed recalls telling Gerry that employees bring home to their families the stress and anxiety that attend the workplace. There is hardly time and space in their lives for God."

Gerry and Father Ed went on to share details of each others' vision and the rest, as they say, is history.

EFI is currently chaired by Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani and co-chaired by former Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme. It counts among its directors Ambassador to the Holy See Henrietta de Villa and Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan.

Expanding the mission

In three years, EFI has reached more than 50 all over the country. Metrobank has incorporated EDC in the company's management training program with seven batches having availed of the seminar to-date. Other companies that have benefited include National Bookstore, Pascual Laboratories, Manila Bankers Life Insurance Co. and many others.

While Evangelion's dynamic and dedicated staff and mission partners constantly review and improve its first module, "Empowering Decisions to Change," other modules have been lined up for development.

(The EFI office is located at Unit B, CNE Mansion, 574 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City with Tel. Nos. 534-6193 to 96.)

Turn newspapers into crafts and earn profits on the side

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

OLD newspapers, used carton boxes and Manila paper are thrown away as junk by households and offices, but through the traditional craft of papier mache, these waste products can be transformed into beautiful works of art that can be sold for a handsome profit.

Papier mache refers to the art of molding paper mixed with either flour paste, glue or resin. The paper is usually molded while wet to form a wide range of products from functional boxes to plates to the more decorative figurines, masks, dolls and animal figures used during children's parties.

HOW TO

The technique of making papier mache began in the Orient and reached Europe in the 18th century where the art flourished.

Ninoy Oquendo of Oquendo Enterprises tells the SundayBiz that students can learn the art of papier mache in just a day. He says the craft suits those who are creative but do not have too much capital to start a business.

Almost any object can be used as a mold for papier mache although rounder surfaces are easier to use. Before applying paper to the mold, grease it liberally with petroleum jelly so that it can be removed easily when dry.

The first thing to do is to tear the newspaper into strips. Dip these pieces of newspaper into glue and then apply the strips of paper to the mold one at a time. At least four layers of newspaper strips need to be applied to make the papier mache product strong.

As a final touch, it may be useful to brush a last coat of glue over the layers of newspaper. When the modeling is complete, leave the papier mache to dry. Leave it in a warm, dry place, preferably overnight.

Once it's dry, you can start painting. Prime the papier mache with two coats of white paint to conceal the newspaper and then put on the final decoration. Poster paints and acrylics are ideal for papier mache.

In his products, Oquendo uses cardboard as the main base. The cardboard is coated with one or two layers of newspaper and then covered by Manila paper for a smooth finish.

"There is a big profit potential in papier mache because the raw materials are cheap and are easily sourced locally. The glue and the other materials for the design like paint are also not expensive so it is easy to get into it," Oquendo says.

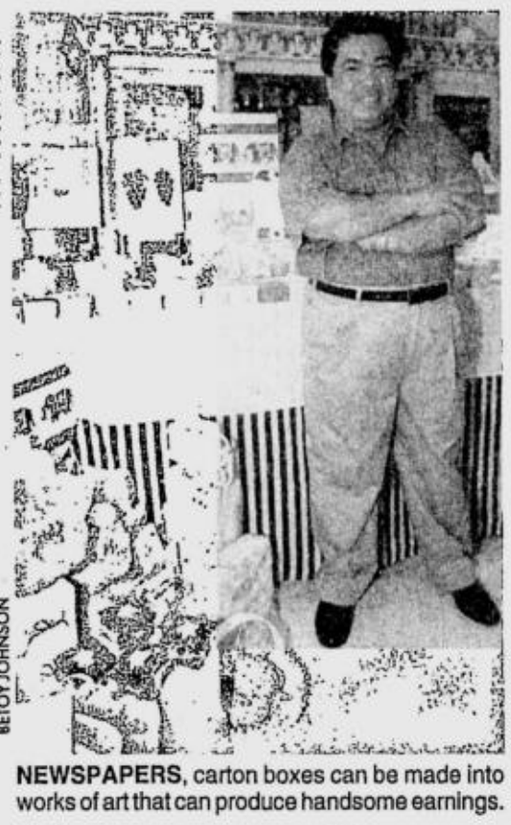
Oquendo himself started his business with only P1,500 which he used to produce the wedding giveaways for his sister's wedding. He studied papier mache through seminars given by agencies such as the Design Center of the Philippines, which helped him with the designs.

"From that wedding in 1995, people started asking me to do giveaways for them. I would ask for a 50-percent down payment to cover the cost of the materials. The business grew from there," Oquendo says.

Oquendo currently produces papier mache items for the local and export market. These are used primarily for weddings, debuts, birthdays and for corporate giveaways.

Oquendo says there is demand in the export market for papier mache items because of the accent on recycled products. The cheap and abundant raw materials likewise make his products competitive in the world market.

(For more information please call Ninoy Oquendo at 563-4243)



BETOY JOHNSON

NEWSPAPERS, carton boxes can be made into works of art that can produce handsome earnings.

FRANCISCO says the Chinese meditative exercises of Qi Gong and Tai Chi make him enjoy solitude. PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

COO finds calm amid chaos

(From page B1)

enjoying solitude. It is my way of setting aside distractions," he says.

He and his wife Mariel discovered the nurturing effects of these Chinese meditative exercises back in the early 1990s. The benefits they got from Qi Gong and Tai Chi inspired the couple to put up the Chakra Center for Health in Quezon City.

Chito says he tries to take time off his schedule to attend to some of the seminars the center sponsors though he admits that his wife is far more active.

He says the most memorable course that he attended at Chakra is the "Enneagram: The Key to Understanding the Nine Personality Types," which helped hone his style of management.

"With my almost half a lifetime of training as an engineer, which is I would say very technical, objective and detached, the Enneagram came in handy when I was given the chance to lead the team," Chito beams. "It gave me a better perspective of understanding people."

FRANCISCO says he would not have survived years of dealing with erring bill collectors and irate customers if not for his exercises.

Chito volunteers that the Enneagram is now being introduced in business schools in the United States. Even his executive assistant, Sharon, admits that his boss infects them with his groovy attitude toward work that makes it easy for them to deal with daily tasks.

Aside from work and his exercises, Chito also takes the time to bond with his brood of four girls by leaving the hustle and bustle of city life and scheduling trips to the provinces.

"We spent the last days of year 2000 at a beach in Batangas. We look forward to these getaways because these give us more time to be with our daughters, Resa, Ivie, Joanna and Nini, who all have their own careers to pursue," Chito says.

Chito himself still has a lot of years ahead of him in Meralco, especially as he will be called upon to help guide the company when the power sector is finally restructured.

"When the time does come, I know we would be ready," he says.

Turner reflects on his new role–and his legacy

(From page B1)

away—hundreds of millions of dollars he has donated over the past five years to a dizzying array of causes —and he gushes.

"I'm concerned about everything on the planet," he said. "The health of the human race. You have to have your heart, your brain, your lungs, your kidneys. You have to save everything in order to save anything."

And the receipts say he is trying to do just that.

Turner gives about $50 million each year to the Turner Foundation, sending the money to causes ranging from promotion of population control to saving woodpeckers and black-footed ferrets.

He is spreading out a $1-billion donation to the Unite Nations in pieces, making sure it goes to four priorities—women and population, children's health, the environment and security.

Last year, he added a $34-million pledge to the UN to cover a reduced US contribution to its budget in 2001.

And he has matched the millions with smaller gifts, assigning them with microscopic range, like the $500 he gave to the volunteer fire department of Gordon, Nebraska, which helped fight a blaze on his ranch there.

Most wealthy philanthropists have a handful of different interests, but Turner's laundry list of causes is unusual, said Stacy Palmer, editor of The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

"He gets wrapped up in a lot of passions," she said. "And his philanthropy reflects that."

For the moment, Turner's biggest passion seems to be nuclear weapons. He raves about "Thirteen Days," the Kevin Costner drama about the Cuban missile crisis, when the world paused on the brink of annihilation.

He is fond of the phrase "hair-trigger alert," slang for nations' capability to launch weapons of mass destruction with only precious minutes of warning.

"We assumed that the world would become safer when the Cold War was over," he said. "The world basically moved on to other problems—the economy, the Internet. We've lived with these things for so long that we just kind of got used to them. I figured we needed to get it back on the agenda."

Turner committed $250 million over five years to reducing nuclear arsenals, joining former Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn, who commended the mogul for committing his "energy, creativity and resources" to the problem.

"He has more time as he steps back from some of his business commitments," Palmer said. "It'll be interesting to see what his next phase is."

Turner admits that he is only a small part of the AOL Time Warner giant, controlling 3 percent of the conglomerate. He talks about the 1980s and early 1990s, "when CNN reported to me."

But control and competitiveness, two hallmarks of his reputation, remain key to his character. About the same time Turner focused his attention on giving away his fortune, he came up with an idea to encourage other billionaires to do the same.

Why not rank them? Why not list them, the way Turner's class is ranked by their success in business?

"There was no similar way in which you were rewarded (for giving)," Palmer said. "He started putting the word out to magazines. It's clear that some of that competitive juice had been stirred up."

He topped Fortune magazine's list in 1998, which counted his $1-billion gift to the UN. And he chided Microsoft pioneer Bill Gates for not giving more: "What good is wealth sitting in the bank?"

Gates and his wife led a list released last month by the Chronicle, giving $5 billion in 2000. Turner ranked 14th.

"I started giving money because I had money," he said. "If you're a dancer, dance. If you're a writer, write. If you've got a lot of money, contribute."

Peter Arnett, a Turner friend who reported from Baghdad during CNN's Gulf War heyday but left the network after a reprimand for a 1998 story that was retracted, said Turner's new role has left him much more time to devote to advancing causes.

"He's sitting up there, but he's not in the chain of command anymore," Arnett said.

"When you look at the man, he's done such a hell of a lot. Any one of those areas would make a great obituary item. And who knows what he'll do in the future?"

What, if anything at all? Ted Turner, who built a reputation on restlessness, who for years seemed to fire off his mouth and his checkbook without warning, talks as though he is satisfied, finally, with what he has created.

Not that he shies from the notion of leaving a legacy. He makes no secret of wanting the money he has given away to ensure his influence decades from now, even as his corporate influence dwindles before his eyes.

"I'm perfectly happy," Turner said. "In the old westerns, the hero would ride over the hill into the sunset." He grins. "And disappear." *AP*

Power from oratory is greater than kings' might

"Strictly Speaking"
by Reid Buckley
McGraw Hill, 1999

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

WE were all part of the disbelieving public when we heard that a well-loved and famous "legal gladiator" at the impeachment proceedings—Joker Arroyo—confessed that he's got the shivers up his spine whenever he speaks in public. Joker? He must be joking (no pun intended)!

But, such confession could be revealing the truth. Joker, the veteran of legal skirmishes and stirring polemics, found himself in an alien territory when he faced a large throng of people in a political rally.

That proves only one point. In the familiar ground of the House, the Senate, the courts and the Supreme Court, he holds sway. But in the political arena, he is—to use the phrase he himself used that got the nerves of a senator—"uninitiated."

In the area of public speaking, we are aware that we are coolly professional in some situations (like persuading a high-powered corporate board), but sadly inadequate in explaining a corporate citizenship program to a diverse community of non-government organizations.

It is also possible that we have the mastery of the subject, but we do not have the language and the savvy to bring the message to the "gut level."

Many issues ago of the Executive Read, we featured "On Speaking Well," written by Peggy Noonan, speechwriter of two former US Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. The book is a good find to guide us through excellent speechwriting but, justifiably so, does not cover other concerns in oratory or public speaking.

Well, the book, "Strictly Speaking" by Reid Buckley comes in where Noonan leaves off. In fact, the book offers much more.

First of all, in over 300 pages, all seven parts and 22 chapters deal with every conceivable situation from social functions to a political rally; every imaginable "vice" and every desirable "virtue" in public speaking; every valuable advice on writing style, use of humor, overcoming stage fright, plus hand gestures that turn the audience on or off—and the most useful insight on concluding the speech with brilliance—and even majesty.

The book is fun to read. In fact, you should even be ready to laugh aloud and alone when you read his anecdotes. The book jacket offers "tricks of the speaker's trade from a master of rhetoric."

It would be understandable if this is just a try at hyperbole to sell the book, but the moment you turn to the preface, you know at once that you are transported to one of the lively seminars of Buckley, who happens to be a very effective storyteller.

In fact, you come away with the impression, after reading Buckley's book, that a public speaker must, first of all, be a master of the narrative art.

He points out: "Your life may not hang in the balance; your livelihood may. What the art of public speaking boils down to is, crudely stated, selling; morally analyzed, imposing one's will."

"Therein the prize: dominion over the minds and spirits of one's audience, power over their capacity for action," he adds.

The book is a treasure of advice—not the usual pedantic lecture—but, in the hands of an excellent speaker, raconteur and debater, you get advice with unusual frankness, humorous anecdotes, and ringing rebuke on people—even Clinton and Dole—on the former's verbiage and the latter's arid style.

"Think of it as a checklist," the author says, on how to read the book. He offers "quick fixes" for someone who has a speaking engagement tomorrow at the PTA or a town meeting. And the book delivers what it promises, because you can pick up good and stunning advice at every page.

"The very first paragraph of your talk should shock the audience with its complexity and difficulty, or with its outrageousness," he says, in bold, italicized letters. But he follows it with the next advice: "Having first shocked them, soothe, placate, and coddle your audience."

Simply with these lines, you can picture what kind of public speaker and mentor Buckley is. He uses words like "pugnacious," "tough," and "taking command." Wait a minute, are we talking about public speaking? Yes, the Buckley variety.

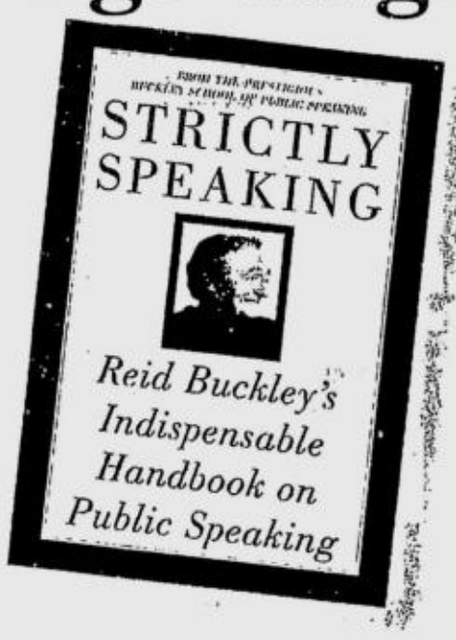
A 30-minute speech is a mistake under any situation, he says. "Don't waste people's time," he advises in another section, adding a wise counsel so simple we miss it: "Don't tell them what they already know."

On finding and developing a subject, he stresses: "It is best to establish one solid point well." He quotes sources to buttress advice, such as not overcrowding your speech with many points. Quoting a master stylist and polemicist, Willmore Kendall, he gives this formula: "A person cannot make more than one point in 1,500 words."

Beyond the verbal, Buckley has something useful to say on voice (modulation, pronunciation, enunciation, etc.), hand gestures suitable each for men and women (they are really different!), eye contact (you must individualize the audience) and—hear this—"what not to do with your hands if they have nothing else to do"—including what he calls the "fig leaf position." Find that out for yourself.

In fact, this review is just one percent of what you can pick up from the book. Dear reader, you know what to do. Especially after reading this quote in an unpublished essay of Winston Churchill:

"Of all the talents bestowed upon men, none is so precious as the gift of oratory. He who enjoys it wields a power more durable than that of a great king. He is an independent force in the world." Churchill, as we know, inspired Great Britain to resist the Nazi advance. Oratory's power is indisputable. (*Feedback: dantemv@i-next.net.*)



IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE

NEW Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor is under fire these days as alarms are raised over the presence of meat products that may be contaminated with the fatal mad cow disease.
The human variant of the mad cow disease that is currently wreaking havoc in Europe is known to cause insomnia, loss of memory and dementia before the victim lapses into a coma.
Montemayor, however, has not yet issued a ban on imported milk and other dairy products saying that the government should not be too "alarmist."

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Bring resumé for interview on **March 5-10, 2001**, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 3rd Flr. Liberty Bldg. A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati

LOOK FOR: PIA MACABUAG

FEMALE SECRETARY

- Preferably Journalism Graduate
- Computer Literate

Send resumé or apply in person to:

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E-mail: ufs@i-next.net
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will hold a pre-bidding and bidding conference among NFA accredited grains suppliers on **March 13** and **15, 2001**, respectively at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the supply of the following commodities.

a. THIRTY THOUSAND (30,000) metric tons, 10% MOLSO, White Kernelled Corngrains equivalent to US Grade #2 or better, in bulk for April/May 2001 arrival of US origin for discharge in Cebu.

b. SIX THOUSAND NINETY THREE (6,093) metric tons (min./max) Yellow Corngrains equivalent to US Grade #2 or better, in bags or in bulk for April/May, 2001 arrival of omnibus origin for discharge in Manila or Cebu.

Price offers must be quoted as follows:

a. For yellow corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO, 1-2 SB, Manila, in bag.
b. For white corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO, 1-2 SB, Cebu, in bulk.
c. Combined loading of cargo for both yellow and white corn acceptable, in which case, price offers must be quoted as follows:
   c.1. For yellow corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO, 1-2 SB, 1 SP Cebu or Manila, in bag or in bulk.
   c.2. For white corn, in US$/MT, C&F, FO 1-2 SB, Cebu, in bulk.

Suppliers bidding for yellow corn cargo are required to submit bids in bulk and in bags otherwise their bids will be invalidated.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total offer in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check issued/drawn from a reputable Metro Manila bank or demand draft in USD which must be drawn within Metro Manila or stand-by irrevocable L/C valid for 120 days.

Opening of bids will start at exactly 2:00 PM of the bidding date. Only those accredited by NFA shall be allowed to submit offers.

NFA accredited suppliers must submit documents to update records not later than **12 March 2001**, 5:00 PM. For further verification, please contact the Foreign Operations Division - DMO at telephone numbers 743-8696/740-1977/712-1708.

Further, those who wish to apply for accreditation shall have until **12 March 2001**, 5:00 PM to submit pertinent documents for accreditation. Requirements/checklist for accreditation may be secured from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor with Tel. Nos. 743-8696/740-1977/712-1708.

The pre-bidding conference shall be held on 13 March 2001 at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom to discuss the terms and conditions pertaining to the bidding and announce who are qualified to participate in the bid.

The bidding terms and conditions shall be available at the Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor starting **09 March 2001** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 2:00 PM at NFA Boardroom on 20 and 22 March 2001, respectively.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Chairman, PBAC
and Assistant Administrator

(PDI--March 3, 4, & 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the following provisional receipts of All AsiaPlans Corporation were declared lost

Booklet no.	Series number	Booklet no.	Series number
71	10701-10	114	11131-40
73	10721-30	115	11141-50
74	10731-40	116	11151-60
77	10761-70	119	11181-90
79	10781-90	120	11191-200
81	10801-10	135	11341-50
82	10811-20	137	11361-70
83	10821-30	140	11391-400
84	10831-40	141	11401-10
85	10841-50	142	11411-20
86	10851-60	155	11541-50
87	10861-70	158	11571-80
90	10891-900	159	11581-90
93	10921-30	162	11611-20
95	10941-50	166	11651-60
96	10951-60	167	11661-70
97	10961-70	168	11671-80
98	10971-80	169	11681-90
99	10981-90	176	11751-60
100	10991-00	177	11761-70
101	11001-10	186	11851-60
103	11021-30	5-587	37931-35
108	11071-80	3-214	22131-40
111	11101-10	3-732	27311-20
113	11121-30	3-733	27321-30

Any transactions covered by the above numbered receipts will not be honored by the company.

ALL ASIAPLANS CORPORATION
All AsiaCapital Center, 105 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No. 8183211; 8130188; Telefax 8482068

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Province of Cebu
Municipality of Dalaguete
Office of the Municipal Mayor
Telefax No. (032) 484-8635
E-mail Address: dalaguete@pacific.net.ph

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: March 4, 2001
Contract ID No. 2000-02
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Construction of 2-Storey Mantalongon Public Market. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The Municipality of Dalaguete, Province of Cebu thru its Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of Mantalongon Public Market located at Barangay Mantalongon, Dalaguete, Cebu. The proposed building is a two 2-storey building with dimensions of 44.00 m. x 30.40 m. The floor area is 2,734 sq.m. The project also involves the construction of circumferential road, construction of temporary stalls with a measurement of 2 m. x 1.5 m., installation of water tank reservoir and provision of drainage system and electrical works.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased on March 6 & 7, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Dalaguete, Cebu on submission of a written application and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P4.500.00)** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of **Five Hundred Forty Thousand Pesos (P540,000.00)** in a form of cash, cashier's check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the PBAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Dalaguete, Cebu on or before **10:00 a.m., April 6, 2001**, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. Pre-bid conference will be held at **2:00 p.m., March 23, 2001** at the Office of the Mayor, Municipal Hall, Dalaguete Cebu.

(Sgd.) **RONALD ALLAN G. CESANTE, CPA**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI - March 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Pudtol
Province of Apayao

Invitation to Bid
ITB No. PNC - 01-01

March 4, 2001

To: All Eligible Contractors.

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the cost of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the loan to cover eligible payments for the construction/repair of classrooms.

This invitation is open to all contractors from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans and IDA Credits.* The Municipal Government of Pudtol, Apayao and its implementing partner, DECS, in the implementation of the School Building Program (SBP) component of TEEP invites sealed offers/quotations from eligible contractors for the Construction of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classroom School Building & Rehabilitation of Three (3) Classroom School Building in Dona Loreta E/S, Const. of One (1) Unit- One (1) Classroom School Building in Upper Mato E/S and Rehabilitation of Two (2) Classroom School Building in Pudtol Central E/S located in the Municipality of Pudtol, Apayao.

Bid documents may be purchased at the Office of the Municipal Engineer, Calanasan, Apayao for a non refundable fee of P 2,000.00 pesos on **March 5, 2001**. Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Municipal Executive Building on **March 16, 2001** at Pudtol, Apayao. Interested contractors may obtain further information at the same address.

Offers or quotations shall be valid for a period of 100 days after opening of quotations and must be accompanied by a bid security of Two-and-one-half (2-1/2%) percent of total quoted price, and shall be delivered to the Chairperson Pre/post-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Municipality of Pudtol, Province of Apayao on or before 10:00 a.m. **March 28, 2001**.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may be found disadvantageous to the government.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) Hon. **JOHNNY U. ILAYAT**
Chairperson
Pre/post-qualification, Bids and
Awards Committee
Municipality of Pudtol, Apayao

(PDI--March 4, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

In compliance with Presidential authority for the importation of rice, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be holding a pre-bidding and bidding conference limited among foreign government suppliers already accredited by the NFA on **March 08, 2001**, 9:00 A.M. at NFA Penthouse Canteen and on **March 9, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the supply of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (300,000) metric tons, 10% MOLSO, Long Grain White Rice 25% brokens, packed in 50 kg net capacity, polypropylene bag, from Vietnam, China and Thailand origin. Detailed quality specifications shall be included in the bidding terms and conditions. Shipment period is as follows:

MARCH 2001	-	25% BEST EFFORT
APRIL 2001	-	AT LEAST 50% FIRM
MAY 2001	-	BALANCE

Price offers must be quoted in US$/MT, C&F, Free Out basis, 1 SP, 1-2 SB, payment basis at sight L/C and 180 days usance L/C. Minimum bid offer shall be 25,000 MT. Foreign government suppliers who will source rice from their own country may be allowed to offer a maximum quantity equivalent to 150,000 MT. Foreign government suppliers who will source supply not from their country but from other countries of origin will be allowed to offer a maximum volume of only 50,000 MT, 10% MOLSO.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date.

Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 PM.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Assistant Administrator
and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--March 4, 5 & 6, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Calanasan
Province of Apayao

Invitation to Bid
ITB No. CANC - 01-02

March 4, 2001

To: All Eligible Contractors.

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the cost of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the loan to cover eligible payments for the construction/repair of classrooms.

This invitation is open to all contractors from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans and IDA Credits.* The Municipal Government of Calanasan, Apayao and its implementing partner, DECS, in the implementation of the School Building Program (SBP) component of TEEP invites sealed offers/quotations from eligible contractors for the Construction of One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classroom School Building in Namaltugan E/S, One (1) Unit- One (1) Classroom School Building in Ferdinand P/S and Rehabilitation of Two (2) Classroom School Building in Ninoy Aquino P/S located in the Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao.

Bid documents may be purchased at the Office of the Municipal Engineer, Calanasan, Apayao for a non refundable fee of P 1,000.00 pesos on **March 5, 2001**. Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Municipal Executive Building on **March 14, 2001** at Calanasan, Apayao. Interested contractors may obtain further information at the same address.

Offers or quotations shall be valid for a period of 100 days after opening of quotations and must be accompanied by a bid security of Two-and-one-half (2-1/2%) percent of total quoted price, and shall be delivered to the Chairperson Pre/post-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Municipality of Calanasan, Province of Apayao on or before 10:00 a.m. **March 28, 2001**.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may be found disadvantageous to the government.

Very truly yours,

Hon. SERAS G. BULUT, JR.
Chairperson
Pre/post-qualification, Bids and
Awards Committee
Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao

(PDI--March 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Calanasan
Province of Apayao

Invitation to Bid
ITB No. CANC - 01-01

March 4, 2001

To: All Eligible Contractors.

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the cost of the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the loan to cover eligible payments for the construction/repair of classrooms.

This invitation is open to all contractors from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans and IDA Credits.* The Municipal Government of Calanasan, Apayao and its implementing partner, DECS, in the implementation of the School Building Program (SBP) component of TEEP invites sealed offers/quotations from eligible contractors for the Construction of One (1) Unit - Four (4) Classroom School Building & Rehabilitation of Three (3) Classroom School Building in P. Bunut Central E/S, One (1) Unit - Two (2) Classroom School Building in Sta. Filomena E/S and One (1) Unit - One (1) Classroom School Building in Naguilian Norte P/S located in the Municipality Of Calanasan, Apayao.

Bid documents may be purchased at the Office of the Municipal Engineer, Calanasan, Apayao for a non refundable fee of P 1,000.00 pesos on **March 5, 2001**. Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Municipal Executive Building on **March 14, 2001** at Calanasan, Apayao. Interested contractors may obtain further information at the same address.

Offers or quotations shall be valid for a period of 100 days after opening of quotations and must be accompanied by a bid security of Two-and-one-half (2-1/2%) percent of total quoted price, and shall be delivered to the Chairperson Pre/post-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Municipality of Calanasan, Province of Apayao on or before 10:00 a.m. **March 28, 2001**.

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Very truly yours,

Hon. SERAS G. BULUT, JR.
Chairperson
Pre/post-qualification, Bids and
Awards Committee
Municipality of Calanasan, Apayao

(PDI--March 4, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

LETTER OF INTENT

The MWSS wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed Letters of Intent for the design, build, operate and transfer of a 400 MLD Bulk Water Supply Project from Laguna Lake on **March 12, 2001** until **April 16, 2001** at the Office of the Administrator.

A Project Profile may be obtained at the Office of the Deputy Administrator starting on **March 12, 2001** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A detailed Information Memorandum will be issued to the short-listed companies. For inquiries, please call telephone numbers - **928-5691** and **922-2568**.

MWSS reserves the right to reject any company from securing the Information Memorandum and to accept only those who are qualified including established global water system operators and consortia of companies (i.e., funders, investors, manufacturers and contractors).

It is presumed that MWSS has no obligation to any interested parties, if the bidding process has to be deferred or postponed indefinitely for valid reasons.

(Sgd.) **JOSE F. MABANTA**
Administrator

(PDI - March 4, 10 & 17, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG DAUNGAN NG PILIPINAS
(PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY)
PORT OF DUMAGUETE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port Management Office—Dumaguete, Dumaguete City, invites accredited and duly registered Contractors to apply for prequalification and to bid for the following project:

I. Port of Larena
Larena, Siquijor
1) Project Number : DM 0106
A. Name of Project : Rehabilitation of Pier Deck, R.C. Piles, Lighting and Fender System, Port of Larena

B. Scope of Work:
1) Demolition of R.C. Pier Deck, R.C. Beams, R.C. Curb, Apron Wall & top portion of R.C. Piles to expose rebars.
2) Replacement of R.C. Pier Deck, R.C. Beams, R.C. Curb, Apron Wall and top portion of R.C. Piles including entire re-bars.
3) Installation of Concrete Tender System (8 Clusters).
4) Concrete jacketing of damaged R.C. Piles.
5) Rehabilitation of existing port lighting system.
6) Supply and installation of one (1) unit Tower Light.
7) Safety and Health Program.

C. Estimated Project Cost : P 5,341,442.73
D. Credit Line Commitment : P 534,144.27
E. Required Classification : "Medium" for Ports and Harbors
F. Minimum Equipment Requirement : 1 - Unit - Truck Mounted Crane (Owned)
1 - Unit - Diesel Pile Hammer (Owned)
1 - Unit - Drop Hammer, 2 Tons (Owned)
1 - Unit - Jack Hammer w/ Compressor (Owned or leased)
1 - Unit - Payloader (Owned or leased)
2 - Units - Dump Truck (Owned or Leased)
2 - Units - One-bagger Concrete Mixer (Owned)
2 - Units - Concrete Vibrator (Owned)
1 - Unit - Bar Cutter (Owned)
1 - Unit - Welding Machine (Owned)
1 - Unit - Concrete Cutter (Owned)
1 - Unit - G.I. Pipe Cutter (Owned)
G. Project Duration : 280 C.D.
Issuance of Pre-C Forms : March 12-14, 2001
Cost of Pre-C Forms : P100.00 (Non-Refundable)
Deadline of Submission of Duly Accomplished Pre-C Forms : March 22, 2001

Time and date of issuance of Plans & Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and submission and opening of bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

All particulars relative to prequalification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **TEODULO T. PADERES**
Port Manager

(PDI – March 4, 2001)

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sbma **PRE-QUALIFICATION BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
SBMA BUILDING 255, BARRYMAN ST. SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4214/ 4124/ 4424/ 4230/ 4424 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

28 February 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee ("PBAC") announces the extension of the submission of pre-qualification documents for the following services:

SBMA INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER (ISP)

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned sealed bidding;

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
6. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
7. Company PROFILE
   A) Company Information
      a) List of all relevant services/projects in the last five (5) years
      b) Roster of clients
         1. Brief description of client
         2. Length of services (indicate period covered)
         3. Internet access speed provided
         4. Amount/Cost of projects/services
   B) Technical Staff
      a) Curriculum vitae
         1. IT training/knowledge regarding the equipment, systems and its operation.
         2. Relevant certification
         3. Relevant experience/ exposure, (at least 2 years)
         4. Experience with the company (assigned projects and status)
8. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until **5:00 p.m.** of **March 8, 2001 (Thursday)**, at the PBAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.**
Secretary, PBAC

(PDI--March 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

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2600 Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila

on its 63rd year of shaping relevant Filipinos in the pursuit of knowledge and truth

announces

A. Grand Reunion of high school and college graduates (all branches) to be held on May 19, 2001, 5:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn, Manila
Deadline for reservation of tickets - April 16, 2001

B. Search for Outstanding High School/College Alumni
Mechanics:
A graduate may nominate any alumnus or himself who has significantly contributed to the betterment of Philippine society in the following fields: public service, business, education, law, sciences, arts, international affairs, journalism and literature, information technology, agriculture, accounting, engineering.
Deadline for submission of entries - March 16, 2001

For inquiries, call or fax to:
AU Legarda & Juan Sumulong High School - 734-7371; fax 734-4659
Arellano Law Foundation - 521-4690; 521-4691
Jose Abad Santos & AU Pasay - 831-8077; 512-2444; 512-2446
A. Mabini High School, Pasay - 524-2850
A. Bonifacio High School, AU Pasig - 641-2480
Plaridel, Mandaluyong - 532-7741
E. Esguerra, AU Malabon - 281-9166

Or mail to:
AU Alumni Association
c/o Mrs. Ninfa G. Velasco
Arellano University
2600 Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila
e-mail address: **arellano-alumni_assn.@hotmail.com**

ATTENTION

ALL CANDIDATES FOR SENATORS, MAYORS, CONGRESSMEN, ET. AL.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN BILLBOARDS MADE OF PREFAB STEEL FOR FREE

OUR STOCK OF STEEL PREFAB PANELS FOR PREFAB HOUSES ALL READY MANUFACTURED BY THE TENS OF THOUSANDS ARE AVAILABLE TO BE USED TEMPORARILY AS STEEL CAMPAIGN BILLBOARDS IN THE MAY 14TH 2001 ELECTION AS HANG-UP SIGNS ON THE SIDES OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSES OR WALLS AND FENCES OF THE SAME; OR ON VACANT LOTS. INTERCONNECTING OF THE PREFAB PANELS WILL PRODUCE A GIANT BILLBOARD. A BUY-BACK 1/3 OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF P1,000. OF ALL UNDAMAGED PANELS IS GUARANTEED. EACH PANEL COSTS P1,000. AND P300. TO COVER COST OF LETTERINGS. EACH PANEL SIZE IS APPROX. 3X7 FEET. WILL ACCEPT ORDERS FROM ALL PROVINCES PROVIDED COST OF SHIPPING, FREIGHT AND CRATINGS ADDED. DONATIONS TO CANDIDATES KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. COME VISIT OUR PLANT AT NO. 7 ESCARLATA COR. GERONIMO DRIVE, T. SORA, QC OR CALL TELS. 4568856 OR 9394068. FOR PERMISSION TO HANG ON RESIDENTIAL HOUSES. YOU MAY DONATE THE PROCEEDS OF 1/3 PRICE OR BUY BACK REFUND TO SAID OWNER AS RENTAL FOR PREMISES USED. NOTE: SURRENDER OF OUR PANEL POSTER AFTER ELECTION UNDAMAGED SHALL ENTITLE SURRENDEREE TO P1000. DISCOUNT PER PANEL SHOULD YOU APPLY TO BUY OUR STEEL PREFAB HOUSING UNIT FOR P95,000. NOW ON DISPLAY AT OUR PLANT AT TANDANG SORA, SO YOU PRACTICALLY GET FREE ELECTION POSTERS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN. YOU CAN DONATE THIS PREFAB TO HOUSE HEALTH CLINICS TO ANY TOWN OF YOUR CHOICE.

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INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

1999 Suzuki Samurai Wagon/WKD-927
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer/UFC-508
1999 Honda Civic 1.5/WKA-467
1998 Mitsubishi L-300 Van Dsl./WDJ-588

For particulars, call **Philam Ins. Co., Inc.**
Dick Carino. Tel. No. 7543457
(PDI - March 3 & 4, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **PAGET MARKETING, INC.** will be filing its Amended Articles of Incorporation shortening the corporate life of the corporation to **28 February 2001** with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or before **March 9, 2001.**

Those entities or individuals who may have any objections thereto may file their opposition to the application with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

28 February 2001.

(Sgd.) **RODINIL D. BUGAY**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - March 4 2001)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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"This is Diners Club's way of saying thanks to the great number of Clubmembers who have been loyal and have stayed with us all these years," said Ronald B. Bibonia, Diners Club's first vice president for business development.

For more information, visit the Diners Club booths at Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Ermita, SM North Edsa, or call the Club Phone at 88-791-88 or its toll-free number 1-800-1-888-8846.

MASTERCARD SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S HOUR

MasterCard International has given its support to Children's Hour, a long-running charity campaign that aims to raise funds for the most in-need programs and non-government organizations in the Philippines. The donations were obtained from the 2000 MasterCard Philippines Invitational Golf Tournament where participants from MasterCard's local member banks gave their individual financial contributions as part of their participation in the event. Photo shows Judith Dayrit (middle), MasterCard International Philippines director for marketing and member relations, handing MasterCard's check donation for Children's Hour to Greg Par, resource development manager of Children's Hour. Looking on is MasterCard's Gert Batocabe.

ANITO AND THE E-ROOMS

Anito, the trendsetter and innovator in lodging facilities, amenities and services, introduces another first: the E-Rooms or Total Entertainment Rooms. E-Rooms is the latest innovation in room features. Experience total entertainment as you watch, listen, sing, and dance in these interactive rooms. Rooms are fully equipped with a 29" Cable-ready TV and state-of-the-art VCD-Karaoke entertainment system. Aside from this, rooms come in new themes and hues. Experience the latest "Glow-in-the-dark" and "Graffiti" rooms and a lot more exciting room themes. For your inquiries and reservations, call 889-3932 to 45 local 412 or 415.

INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Gunning for everything

Q. Why we say *lock, stock and barrel* to mean 'the whole thing'?

A. *Lock, stock* and *barrel* refer to the three component parts of an old-fashioned firearm. The expression in general usage follows along the same path; its sense is 'an entirety, 'completely.' If someone offers to buy a merchant's inventory *lock, stock and barrel,* he means he will take the whole lot, all of it — the whole shooting match. The idiom is rooted in John Lockhart's autobiography of Sir Walter Scott (1617): 'Like the highlandman's gun, she wants stock, lock and barrel, to put her in repair. *Stock* and *lock* were eventually transposed to make the idiom were euphonious — *lock, stock and barrel* — and has remained so rather than the way it was originally written.

For the Record. Locks today might be entirely different if Linus Yale, Jr., had been a better portrait painter. But after a few years of dabbling with paints, he forsook the art and became a locksmith like his father. At New Port, New York in 1851, Yale patented the cylinder lock, which revolutionized the industry. Although based on the principle of the pin-tumbler lock of the ancient Egyptians, Yale's improved version could be used on a door of any thickness (eliminating the need for massive keys). Yale locks were the world's first mass-produced *unidentical* products.

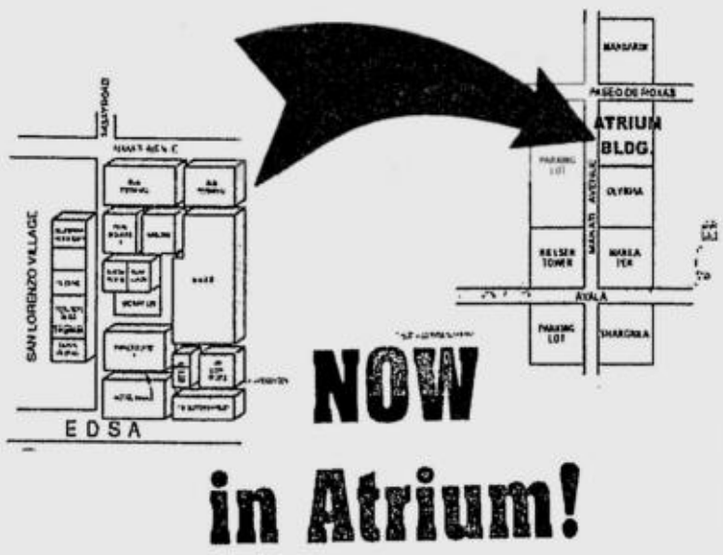
Past Forward. This day in 1861: Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as the 16th president of the United States — united only in name: the country was divided and on the threshold of civil war.

WORD WATCH

Piraso : Tagalog corruption of the Spanish *pedazo*, 'piece.'

PDI -- March 4, 2001

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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Retired Judge Rafael Posada Santelices

Of Pandan, Catanduanes and Legazpi City

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 2, 2001 at the age of 67

His bereaved wife **Vice Mayor Josefina E. Santelices** of Pandan, Catanduanes; children **Emma** and **Hermes**; **Ronald** and **Shiren**; **Rommel** and **Carina**; grandchildren **Karlo, Kristopher, Kenneth, Kristine, Roxette** and **Van Halen**; sisters **Nora** and **Aida**; brother **Wilfredo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence, (YMCA Lane, Brgy. 3, Sagpon, Legazpi City).

The body will be transferred to the Regional Trial Court Region V on Tuesday March 6, 2001 at 1:00 P.M. until Wednesday morning then it will be brought to Pandan, Catanduanes on same day.

Interment will be announced later.

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the death of

FR. EDWARD ALOYSIUS ALLEN

who died in Batang, Negros Occidental on March 3, 2001 at the age of 94.

Fr. Allen was ordained in 1930 in Ireland and was sent to Rome for further studies where he graduated in Canon Law. He was then assigned as professor and spiritual director to the Columban Formation program in the U.S. until he was appointed to the Philippines in 1950. Apart from a spell at Malate Parish and the Apostolic Nunciature in Manila, Fr. Eddie spent the rest of his long and fruitful life in Negros. He worked in the parishes of Kabankalan, Binalbagan and Himamaylan where he spent the final years of his ministry. Priests and people of Negros, his Columban colleagues all held him in great affection.

The Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, 6th March 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Kabankalan.

May he rest in peace.

Our Dear Daddy

Monico Montemayor Chavez

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 1, 2001 at the age of 57.

His loving wife **NENITA**; children **RHOAN, SHEILLAH, JB** and **RHOSHEIL, FREDERICK** and **RHIANNE, ROY**; grandchildren **TWEETY, IMMAN** and **JOHN**; brothers and sisters **FELY, ELY, NELIA** and **MARIO** and other relatives and friends request you to pray for him on his eternal journey with our Lord.

His remains lie in state at U.P. Chapel, Diliman, Quezon City.
Interment to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARIS DELFIN CRISOSTOMO

who died on January 22, 2001

wish to convey our heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped Maris in her hour of need. Special mention is made for those who donated blood, the doctors, hospital staff and caregivers of Makati Medical Center, friends and relatives who stayed at her bedside and those who may have in their own way given comfort to our dear Maris. Our heartfelt thanks also to those who gave flowers, offered prayers and kept vigil with us in our time of great sorrow.

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GERONIMO I. IMPERIAL

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 1st day March 2001 at the age of 82.

His remains lie in state at PCHAI Multi-Purpose Bldg. (beside Sto. Rosario Parish Church) Pacita Complex I, San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment to be announced later.

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...I'm free
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch...

We Lovingly Remember
the First Death Anniversary of our beloved

ERNIE "BOY" "ERNS" T. GUERRERO

who was safely back home in Heaven with his Creator on March 6, 2000.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches on March 6, 2001:

Sanctuario De San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati City	12:15 PM
Greenbelt Chapel, Makati City	5:45 PM
Naga Carmelite Monastery Chapel, Naga City	6:30 AM
Naga Metropolitan Cathedral, Naga City	7:30 AM
San Francisco Church, Naga City	12:15 PM

A Tribute to ERNIE (A Celebration of Life)
- A gathering of friends, family and loved ones of ERNIE, to remember the good times, will be held at Manila Polo Club on March 6, 2001, to be culminated with a Holy Mass.

Cecilia A. Patron

of Lucena City

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 23, 2001 at the age of 70 in New Jersey, USA.

Her bereaved husband **Ret. Judge Manuel A. Patron**; children and spouses **Nelson** and **Tess, Boy** and **Pam, Cherry** and **Rico, Melo** and **Glen, Noel** and **Trony**, and **Jun**; her grandchildren **Vincent, Hans, Iro, Ryan, Raymon, Cheesam, Sara, Camille, Casey, Pauline** and **Migs**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her mortal remains will lie in state at the family residence in Carmelite Subdivision, Lucena City starting Sunday, March 4, 2001.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved PAPANG

FELIX "ILING" VIERNES REMIGIO

1910-2001

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 2nd day of March 2001 at the age of 91.

His loving wife **Lourdes "Luding" Santos Remigio**; children and children-in-laws **Nita** and **Manu, Lina** and **Abu, Cely** and **Less, Trixie** and **Bong, Jopie** and **Dandy, Beeps** and **Buddy, Glenn** (†) and **Nila, Dan** and **Ompong**; grandchildren **Nitin Wadke, Zooey, J.R., Diana, Stephanie Tidal, Jovic Ludovice, Cucu, Pekson, Ritchie, Rochelle, Ryan Regedon, Gay-gay, Eric, Mickey Tuy, Gin-gin, Gabby, Gian, Gerald, Genie Remigio, Maole, Ige, Shams, Dana Remigio**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Inc., Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Thursday, March 8, 2001 (after 8:00 A.M. Mass at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City, Tels. 645-1845/55 Loc. 16).

FELICIDAD L. BRAVO

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 3, 2001 at the age of 95.

Her bereaved children **BERNARDO JR, ANGELINA, EMMANUEL, ARACELI, NIEVALINDA** and their spouses, grandchildren, great grandchildren, sister **REMEDIOS TAEZA**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Mortuary Chapel, Broadway, New Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Rosita N. De Chavez
"Ka Rosie"
March 4, 1932 – December 1, 2000

And

Gregorio A. De Chavez Sr.
"Ka Oyong"
May 9, 1928 – February 8, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

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6.9M 928-9714 / 927-9609

New Manila 16M 2415338

New Mla 1481114621

New Mla. 1481114621

North Olympus 4173705

Vis Ave 1.3M 2BR •Proj7 nr
SM 249m² • 09179834920 •

LOT

LAS PINAS

338m² P'lupa 532-2602

MAKATI

298sqm. P30T qm. 8908681

•Rockwell-J.P. Rizal/ Villena
228m² @ P75T/m²
•Guad Viejo-Gonzales/EDSA
210m²@P5M 163m²@ P4.5M
•Ft Boni C5 Rd.129m²@P3M
E.Cosme 8971105 8971770

MANILA

54sqm Tayuman 9367701

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/direct
access rd to FILINVEST
Alabang 477m² P5,500/m²
VIC/GIGI 8903461 loc 27

PARANAQUE

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Cor DPX Hse 5.5M 437m²
3BR 2CP Dressing Each
Moonvil S Pque 3710002/4
Alma neg of hrs only

PASIG

Valle Verde 830/1300sqm
8150298 CP-09194037225

Greenwoods 136 sqm
127754202

Greenwoods 136m²
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QUEZON CITY

New Manila Th FA200 New
6M 7263415/ 09175203990

2 Lots 120 sqm each
Parkview Heights
Bagumbong, Novaliches
0919-4490579

CAP HILLS bes Ayala Hts
2000m² 9125847 EC020424

Corinthian Lots 40T up
7240394/7226578 0917-4792264

Loyola Grand 600m²@P8,5
936-1971 (0918)5079799

Ma Clara Nr. Banawe 1Tm²
23T/m² 724-0394/722-6578

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D'Peak 1BR 2.5M • Prince
Plaza 2 Std • 1 Lafayette
BSA Tower/Mansion 1BR •
2BrPH LeDomaine • AIC 2BR
Rush 4128545 0917-8996366

Sikatuna V 600m² 12M
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Nicel Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

246m² 3.9T/m² VISTA
VERDE Cainta 6467425

RIZAL

Cainta Grnpark Vill Near
Sta. Lucia Mall 3Br 4Tb
1Dr Qtr 1Cg 3.5M
912-3323 / 0918-5075515

VERMONT PARK
3BR 3TB LA200m² FA105m²
w/ new Appliances Owner
going to US 1.9M 6811766

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GREENHILLS WEST
Res/Comm Bet. Xavier & ICA
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w/Maids Rm. Drivers Rm.
6Cg. 722-1832 / 636-7942

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new paint nr Agora /
Pinaglabanan accessible to
PUB trans 942-5336

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ownerlvngSF0917-8143792

Upper Bicutan 195m² 4BR
P1.25M Vic 8903461 loc.27

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744m² 2929580 Danny

LOT

RIZAL

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Vermont Park along Marcos
H-way Cor. Lot 305m²
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San Juan Th FA180 6.5M
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amba Lag.1029m² 8622154

★Pacita 5yr2pay 8472626

Nazareth Cagayan de Oro
350m² 9317881 4305220
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2BRnr UP&Ateneo 9125847

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Montalban 350T 913-0393

SAN JUAN

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Proj2 Safe 4Limit P7.5T
Pref. No Car Kid T-9242976

Proj.8 14T 2BR 2TB 9216447

Sct Limbaga Std'o 3735053

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SMF'view 3Tw/tel H'06468155

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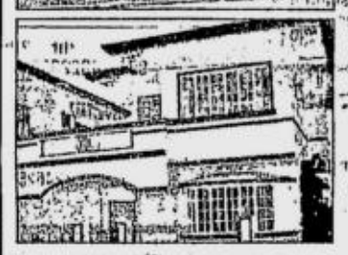

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PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)
-- MM

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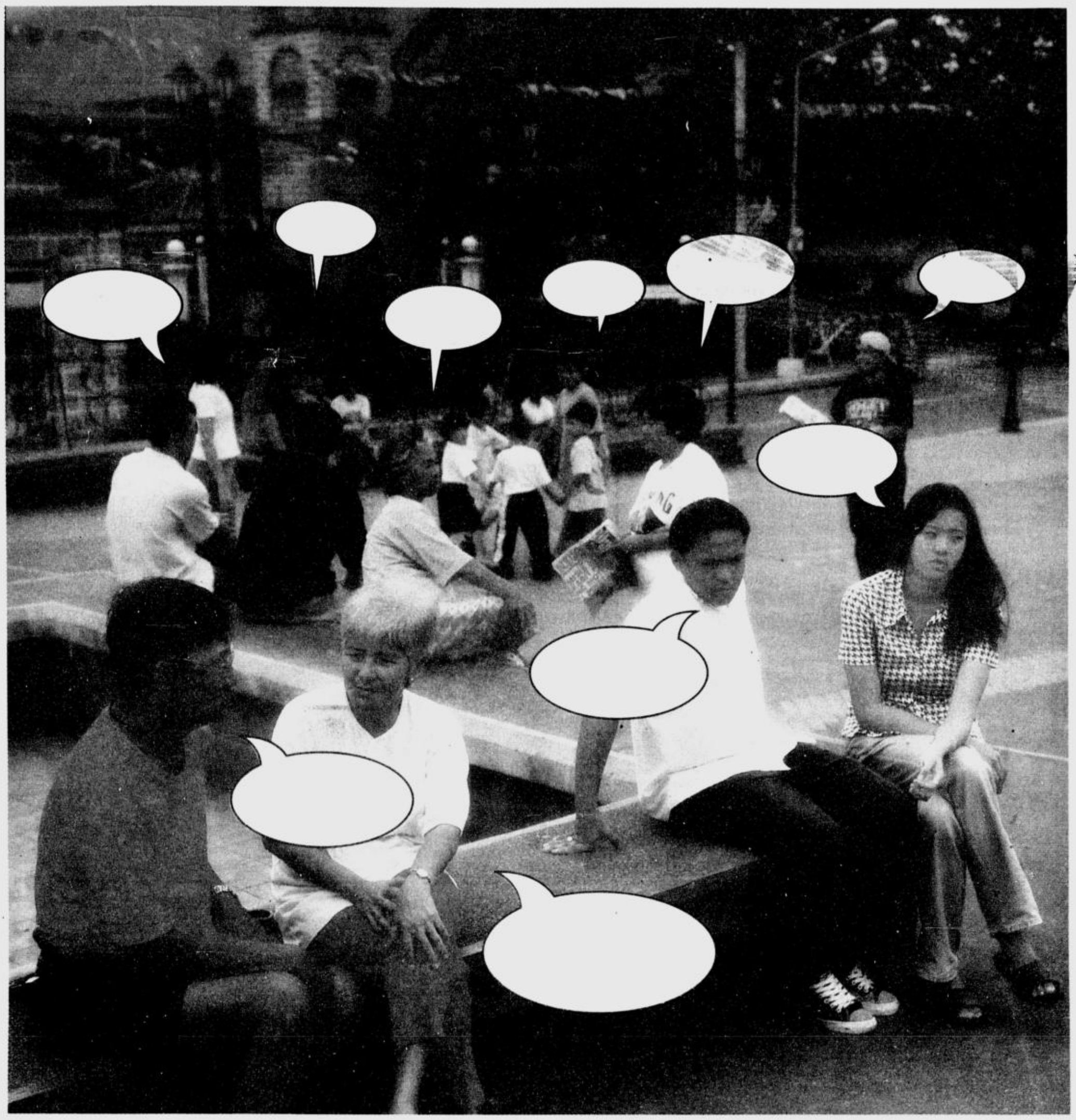

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Reading as a parenting trick

BY ANGELI PANGILINAN-VALENCIANO

AN HOUR ago, I put my daughter to sleep. We were going over Psalm 121, as she needed to memorize it for school, and as she drifted off to sleep, I just smiled at this precious bundle of joy.

Gary and I cannot thank God enough for the three precious children He has given us. They are our sources of inspiration. Our two sons, Paolo, 16, and Gabriel, 12, are warriors, battered by years of living with show-biz parents, yet victoriously, by God's grace, overcoming the trials and struggles confronting our family.

Many families take their precious liberty for granted. For the Valenciano family, we have had to stay at home and try and enjoy each other's company many times, watching movies, with the boys playing basketball and Kiana playing with Mama's makeup, bags, shoes and sashes. It has been difficult since we don't go to the malls that much nor to theme parks due to autograph-seeking fans (bless their souls) who do not understand that sometimes we just want to be a normal family.

Reading to one's children daily can truly boost the development of the young

Raising the kids has been difficult for me especially since I am a working mother. Adjusting schedules to make time for the children is a major necessity, forcing me to sacrifice many personal desires I may have such as going to the parties of friends and relatives, to the movies and to concerts. I played tennis for a long time and I really miss the game. My girlfriends from the Maryknoll volleyball team, of which I was a part during my high school years, have been trying to get me to have quarterly lunches with them. I have had friends criticizing me because they think I don't enjoy their company. Saying no is difficult, but I have had to do it many, many times, even if it meant I would not rub elbows with people who could give our artists contracts and projects. God will provide!

Genesis employees know that their bosses (Gina Valenciano-Martinez and I) normally have only about six hours of sleep due to the family time required to make their marriages work. Truly, a mother's life is tough and very, very tiring.

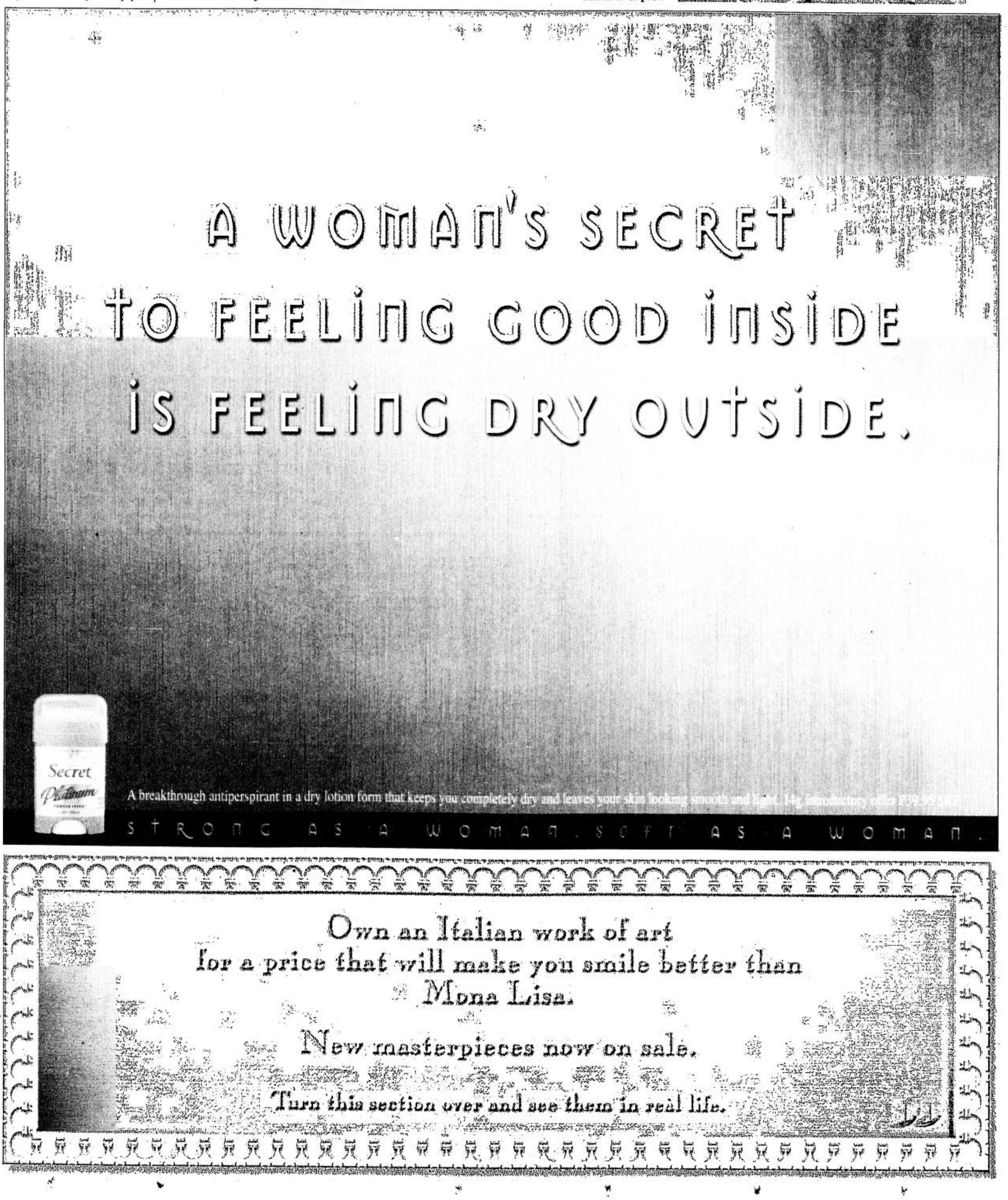
But I wanted to narrow down this particular article to an unknown secret of my daughter Kiana's and mine: our bedtime regimen. As I was signing the test papers of Kiana and seeing 100 in CBA, 93 in Reading, 96s and 94s in other subjects, I marvelled at how the parents' perseverance in reading to their children as a daily practice can truly boost the development of the young.

Daily stories

As far back as I can remember, Kiana's bedtime with Mama was marked by almost daily stories, both

READING/ p.C4

STORYTELLERS BOTH. The author and daughter Kiana



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III A. Tzigane RAVEL
B. Caprice No. 24 (for violin alone) PAGANINI
IV A. Sarung Bangui GREGORIO-ROMERO
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New school promises small class size and more social integration

THE BEACON School is a new elementary and preschool institution founded by parents who wanted a higher standard of education with a solid Filipino cultural foundation. These parents wanted a Filipino school to offer and achieve the high academic standards of the international schools in the Philippines, but with a more socially integrated approach, and at a more reasonable price.

The two most important elements of this type of education are a high teacher-student ration and an emphasis on analytical thought. Instead of the common 40 or 50 students to a single teacher ration found in many of the major private schools today, the Beacon School limits its classrooms to at most 15 students, with one teacher, and one teaching assistant. Instead of simply copying down lectures and memorizing answers for exams, students are trained to recognize, analyze and solve problems through discussion and cooperation.

The preschool consists of the Excel program, which has a proven track record of several years in this critical period of formation. Excel's founders shared their program with Beacon when they realized the compatibility of their goals.

Located on Pasong Tamo Extension, the Beacon School campus is a wide, airy green space ideal for outdoor activities, and the school itself is housed in a graceful building designed by the late National Artist Leandro V. Locsin.

The Beacon School opens kindergarten and grades I to III this June under the administration of headmaster Lawrence M. Buck, who most recently headed the British School in Manila.

There will be an open parent information meeting on March 10, 2 p.m. at the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD) on Pasong Tamo Extension.

Call the Beacon School in Makati at 894-0724 or e-mail beacon@asiagate.net.

Unifem and Zonta mark Int'l Women's Day with GMA as guest speaker

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be the guest speaker at the joint celebration of International Women's Day organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem) Philippine Committee together with Zonta Foundation Philippines and Zonta International District 17 on March 7, 5-7 p.m., at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel. All Unifem and Zonta members are enjoined to attend.

Unifem Philippine Committee joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day and calling for more economic and political empowerment of women as the means of reducing and eliminating the feminization of poverty and building on women's leadership capacity.

Unifem was born in response to the call of thousands of women for a fund within the United Nations system to help improve the living standards of women in developing countries and to give them voice and visibility. Unifem is an innovative and catalytic fund that supports numerous projects and initiatives that promote political, economic and social empowerment of women and the elimination of violence against women.

On this occasion, Zonta Foundation Philippines will be giving out awards in recognition of outstanding micro-entrepreneurs who are beneficiaries of Zonta Clubs and to Zonta Clubs with outstanding livelihood projects. This is in conjunction with the Foundation's thrust in developing women to be self-reliant and financially capable.

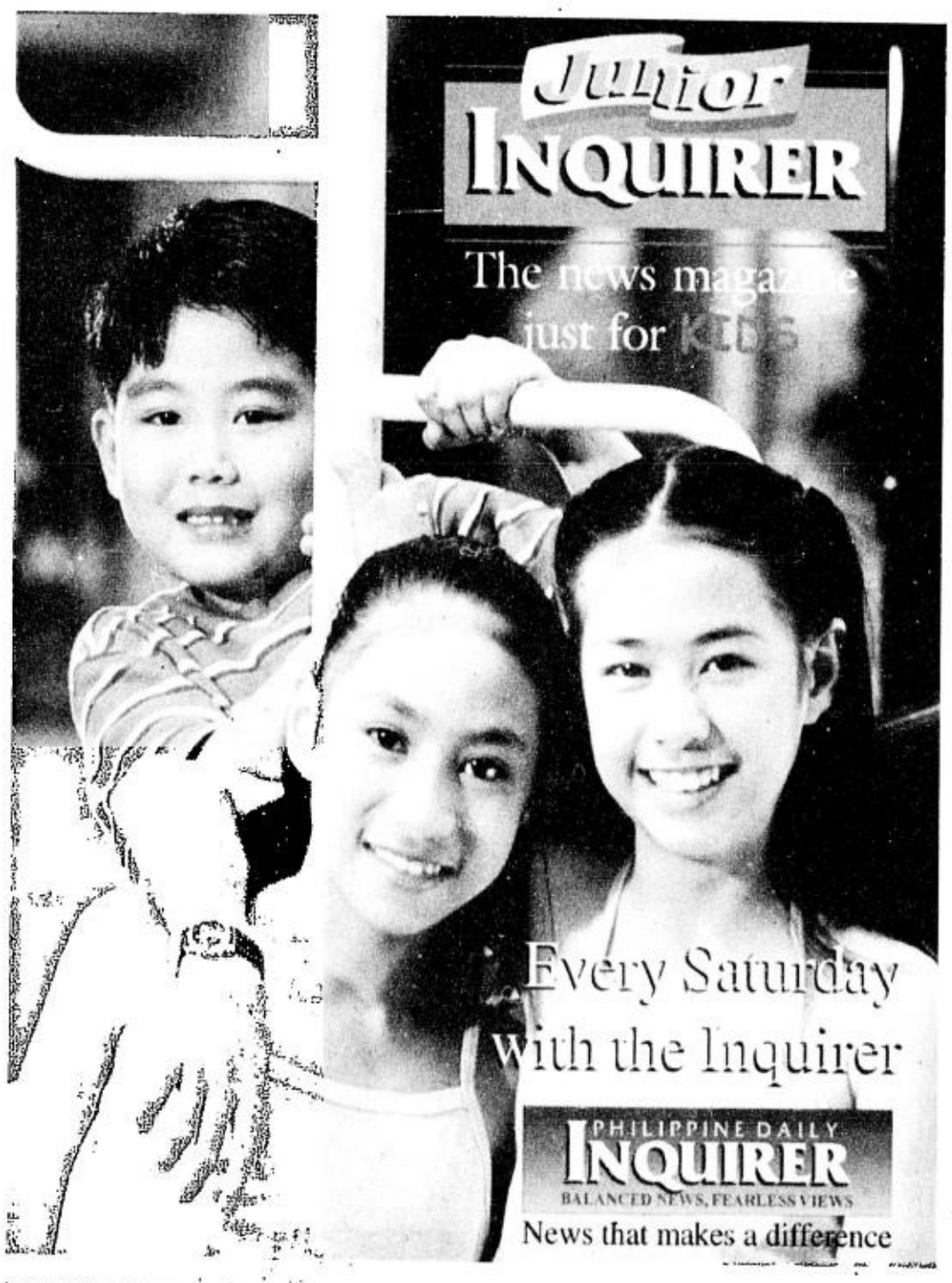
SEATED from left are Unifem chair Olga Severino Martel, adviser Leticia Ramos Shahani, president Erlinda Panlilio and Beng Puyat. Behind are Gula Rijk, Mabel Abano, Anita Villafuerte, Betsy Enriquez and Virma Vergel de Dios

Zonta International District 17 will also be recognizing donors to the Zonta Rose Fund, which is used to support efforts to develop and pilot new programs in response to the critical needs of women. Contributions to the Rose Fund are paramount to the enhancement and expansion of service programs as well as the technical support system of the foundation. A few of the services that receive support from the fund are: the eradication of female genital circumcision, elimination of violence against women, neonatal tetanus immunization and Amelia Earhart scholarships for women in aerospace sciences, among others.

Members of the Unifem board of trustees are Olga Severino Martel (chair), Erlinda Panlilio (president) and trustees Beng Puyat, Virma Vergel de Dios, Guia Rijk, Anita Villafuerte, Mabel Abano, Erlinda Pastoral and Betsy Enriquez. Advisers are Leticia Ramos Shahani and Erlinda Villanueva.

Zonta Foundation Philippines is headed by chair Erlinda Panlilio and president Herminia Fajardo with trustees Erlinda Villanueva, Anita Villafuerte, Erlinda Pastoral, Lorna Kapunan, Concepcion Basillo, Virginia Segovia and Lourdes Gaskell.

Gov. Kathleen Yip and Lt. Gov. Imelda Gomez are at the helm of Zonta International District 17. District 17 is composed of Area 1 under director Concepcion Basilio and vice Virma Vergel de Dios; Area 3 under director Virginia Segovia and vice Madeline Marfori; Area 4 under director Lourdes Gaskell and vice Ofelia Pulido, and Area 5 under director Lorna Kapunan and vice Lourdes Sese.



UP honors its outstanding teachers

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Diliman honored Outstanding Teachers for 2001 xon Feb. 23 at the Abelardo Hall as a highlight of this year's celebration of UP Diliman Month. The winners of the Gawad Chanselor Para sa Pinakamahusay na Guro received the Chancellor's medal and cash prize.

The nominees were judged on their performance in the three functions of the University faculty: teaching (70 percent), research (15 percent) and extension (15 percent).

This year's awardees are Dr. Nicanor G. Tiongson of the College of Mass Communication, professor level; Dr. Evelina Maclang-Vicencio of the College of Education, associate professor level; Dr. Grace Shangkuan-Koo of the College of Education, assistant professor level; and Ma. Nerissa M. Abara of the Department of Mathematics, College of Science, instructor level.

Dr. Gene Abes

ARE YOU AN ACUTE OR CHRONIC SORE THROAT VICTIM?

Dr. Gene Abes, a Master of Public Health graduate, is the chairman of the ENT Department of the Philippine General Hospital.

There are two types of sore throat. Knowing one from the other can help both the doctor and the patient a great deal when it comes to proper treatment and prevention.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACUTE & CHRONIC RECURRENT SORE THROAT?

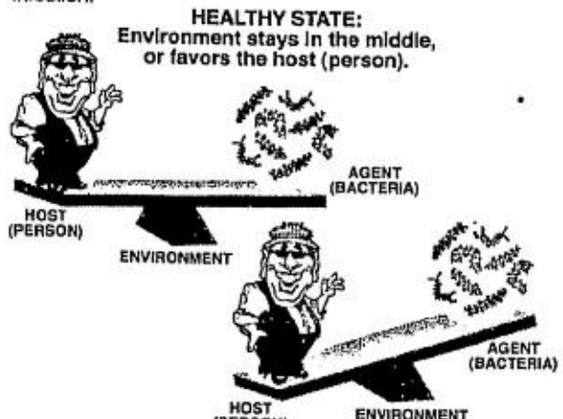
Acute denotes a sudden onset of infection that may quickly become severe, but usually lasts less than 2-3 weeks. If the infection persists for about 3-4 weeks, it may be termed *chronic*. A sore throat that goes away and keeps coming back after a period of symptom-free intervals is called *recurrent*.

HOW DO WE DEVELOP AN ACUTE INFECTION?

Let me show you how an acute infection occurs. The model you see below is called the epidemiologic lever. Epidemiology pertains to the factors controlling the absence or presence of a disease or infection.

Basically, the epidemiologic lever is like a see-saw. There's a fulcrum in the middle that represents the environment. On one end is the host (which may be a person) and on the other, the agent of infection (which may be bacteria). The environment is the deciding factor. If the environment stays in the middle (a state of balance) or favors the host, this is considered a healthy state. On the other hand, if the environment moves to the other side and favors the agent of infection, it will then multiply and cause an infection.

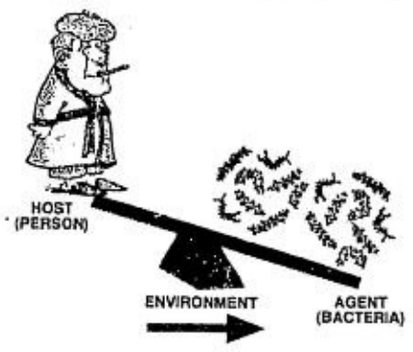
HEALTHY STATE:
Environment stays in the middle, or favors the host (person).



So, if you keep yourself healthy by taking vitamins, exercising regularly, eating a proper diet and getting enough rest, this will create an environment that favors the host - keeping you in a healthy state. Conversely, if you live a hectic lifestyle that prevents you from eating right and getting enough rest, then this will create an environment that brings down the host's natural defense system and favors the growth of the bacteria. The bacteria can multiply in number, thereby increasing the chance of an infection.

In light of this, we can say that oral antiseptics, specifically with hexetidine, can play an important role in preventing the onset of an acute infection by reducing the number of bacteria in our mouth and throat.

UNHEALTHY STATE:
Environment favors the agent (bacteria).



... if you live a hectic lifestyle that prevents you from eating right and getting enough rest, then... bacteria can multiply in number, thereby increasing the chance of an infection.

HOW DO WE DEVELOP CHRONIC SORE THROAT?

Chronic sore throat, on the other hand, is a symptom that lasts for a long time and keeps on coming back. Chronic symptoms can be a sign of a major problem, a minor problem, a habit, or simple sensitivity. It can be dismissed as a relatively minor concern if it is associated with sudden changes of the weather, temperature, or inhalation of pollutants or fumes, which may often be of non-infectious origins, such as allergies.

However, sore throat that simply won't go away is a major health problem, as in the case of cancer, for example. Fortunately, this is rare. Cancer of the throat is not the number one cause of chronic sore throat. However, it is one cause of sore throat that should not be ignored.

While recurrent sore throat is generally a minor problem and may not be due to an infection, it can nevertheless be painful and bothersome.

Hexetidine has properties other than its bacteria-killing action. It can also relieve sore throat pain because of its antalgic action.

Next time, Dr. Abes will explain what happens to an untreated sore throat.

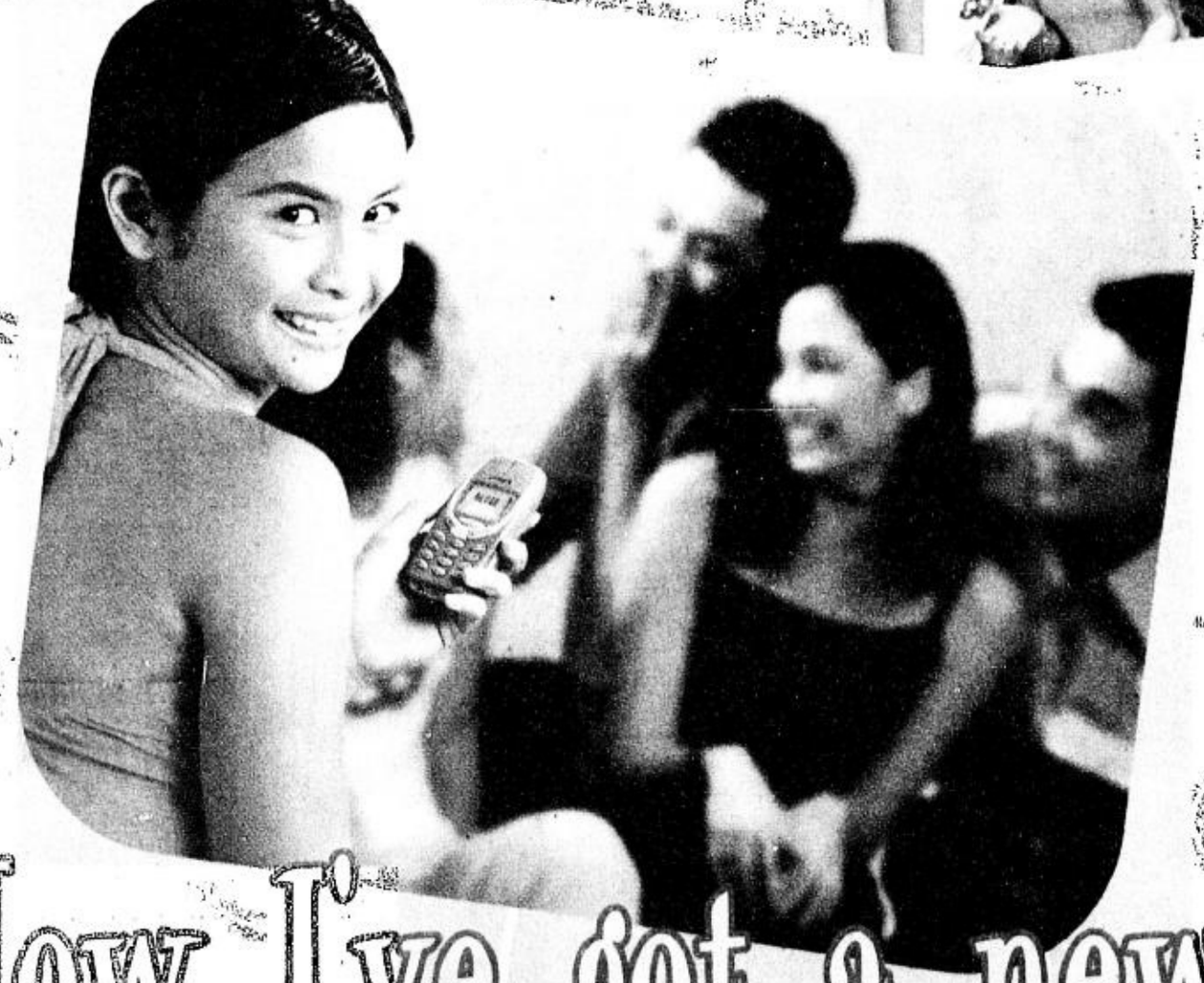
Leaves bacteria dead.

Blast fishing can be stopped by something more powerful.

Public opinion.

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support. INQUIRER

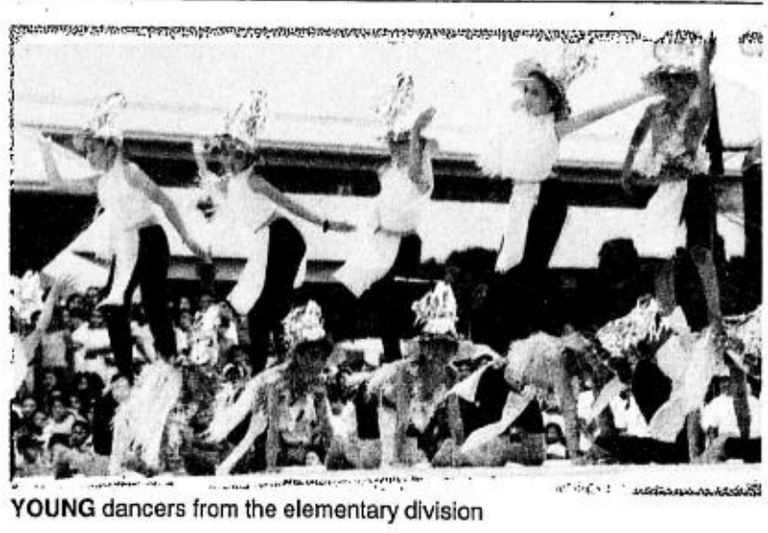
My best friends are always one text away.



Now I've got a new friend who's always at my side.

LAS Vegas-inspired costumes of Barangay San Martin de Porres

MAKATI group dance in multicolored *ternos* for the women and barong tagalog for the men.



YOUNG dancers from the elementary division

Hats off to Parañaque's Sambalilo festival

BY LEAH SALTERIO
PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

What started out as an imperceptible costume tradition during the salt-making days of Parañaque has evolved into a full-fledged festival that attracts Metro Manilans and tourists yearly

MY first encounter with Parañaque's famous Sambalilo dancers was in 1996, when pop demigod Michael Jackson came to Manila for a one-night concert.

Since the much-publicized performance was held in the reclaimed area on the Coastal Road in Parañaque, Jackson was given a festive welcome at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) by a troupe of dancers wearing lively costumes and brightly colored hats.

The dancers also performed at the lobby grounds of the Manila Hotel, where the pop superstar was billeted.

It was the first public appearance of the Sambalilo dancers after Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez introduced them late that year in the Araw ng Palanyag celebration.

Today, the Sambalilo has evolved into an annual cultural activity participated in by groups of dancers who inventively don hats in different shapes, colors and fashion.

The term *sambalilo* originated from the Spanish word *sombrero*, which means hat. It really signifies the costume of hardworking Parañaqueños during the era of salt-making, when they would don large hats to shield them from the sun as they worked on the salt beds.

"It is also one way of promoting Parañaqueñas of the National Capital Region and the city as a Philippine tourist destination," Marquez explained.

"After I saw the Sinulog dancers performing on the streets in their colorful costumes, I told myself we should have something like that in Parañaque," Marquez said. "Since the Sambalilo was there, I thought of turning it into an annual festival and making it into a contest with groups of dancers."

Grand event

Marquez is particularly proud about the Sambalilo festival because it's a grand event that marks the city's celebration of a historical event in style.

In the past, the Sambalilo festival was participated in by groups composed of employees in the city offices and residents of the 16 barangays in Parañaque.

This year, however, the 4th Sambalilo Festival extended the invitation to other cities and municipalities. It was the culminating activity of the week-long celebration of Parañaque's third cityhood anniversary. Other activities included an on-the-spot painting contest, an inter-barangay dance mania and the Binibining Parañaque beauty pageant.

The program on Feb. 18, held at the open-air grounds of Casino Filipino, featured 24 competing groups, divided into three categories. Each group did its own interpretation of a standard eight-minute piece. The champion in each division also brought home a cash prize.

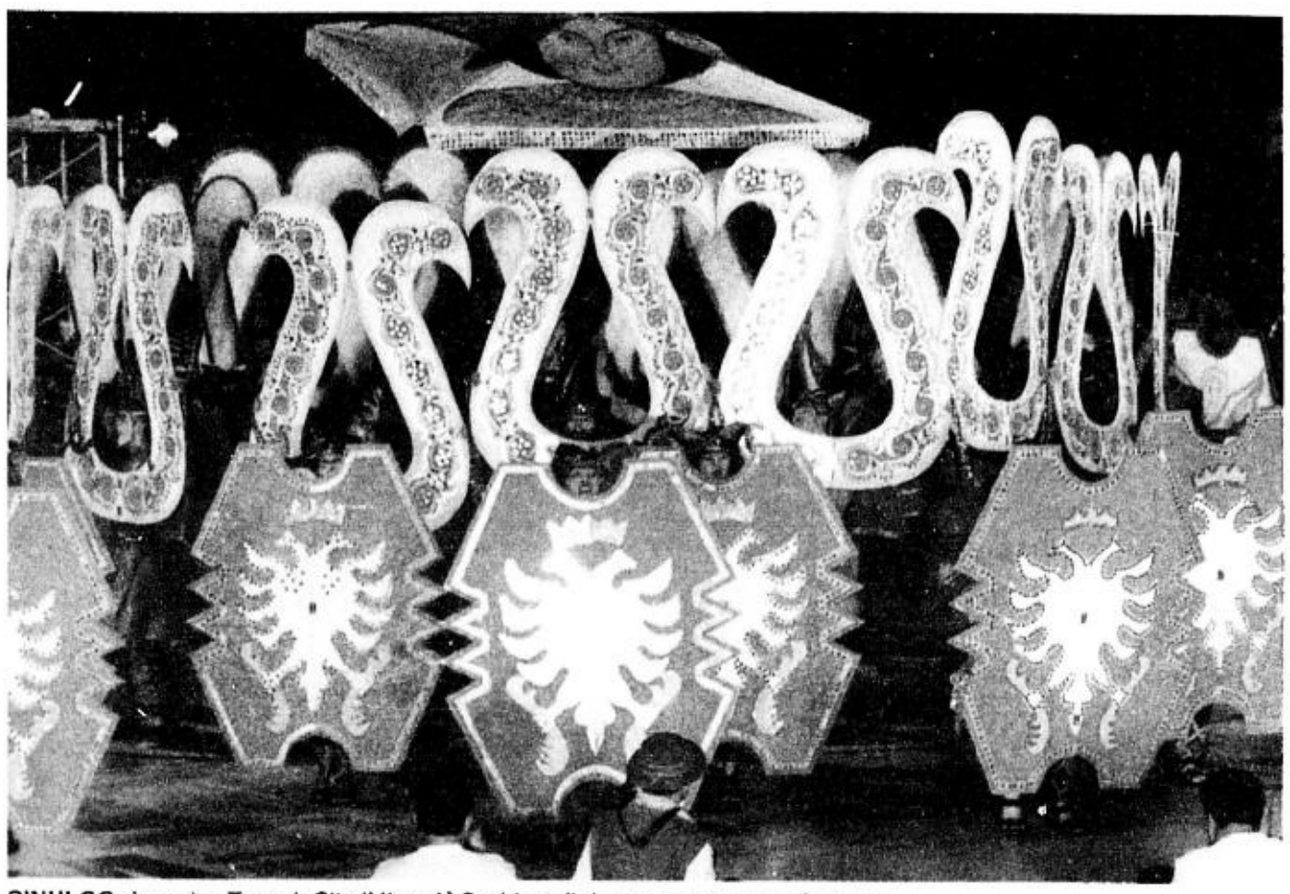
The open category had groups from Makati, Pasig, Tagig and Caloocan, with Makati romping off with the top cash purse of P200,000.

The elementary division had four entries from the primary schools in the city led by eventual champion Baclaran Elementary School Central, that came home richer by P50,000. The others represented 14 of the 16 barangays in Parañaque. Dongalo copped the grand prize of P100,000 here.

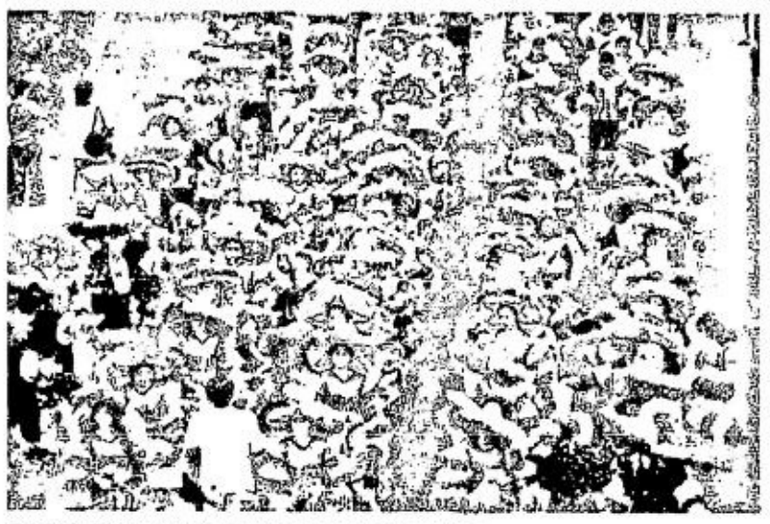
The dance competition kicked off with a grand parade from Kabihasnan all the way to the parking lot of Casino Filipino. The groups donned their colorful costumes and attractive hats, while dancing and marching to the beat of the drums.

It was not May, which is the traditional month for town fiestas. But the Sambalilo festival brought about a festive atmosphere not only among Parañaque residents, but also its guests from the other cities and municipalities.

The Sambalilo dance competition is not only a showcase of beautiful hats and colorful costumes. It is also a veritable display of terpsichorean skills and other talents of the participants.



SINULOG champion Tangub City (Misamis Occidental) dancers as guest performers



PASIG City group in Caribbean-inspired attire

It was a sight to behold when the dancers did backflips, cartwheels and bamboo splits.

Innovative

Some groups should also displayed innovative props such as bamboo torches, flags and horns.

Although the contest motif was Filipiniana, the standard music was a medley of upbeat hits by top artists such as Ricky Martin and Lisa, Lisa and the Cult Jam.

The Pasig City group was dressed in Caribbean-inspired attire, complemented by native *buri* hats impressively adorned with colorful boa feathers, straw, sticks and aluminum foil.

The Tagig dancers were innovative in their red-white-blue-and-yellow body paints to accentuate their hats made of straw.

The Makati group gyrated onstage in their native costumes—multicolored *ternos* for the women and barong tagalog for the men. Their *sambalilo* was a glittering headdress of colorful tulle adorned with mini-hats. They also carried a giant *salakot* onstage, which should have given them a special prize for their effort.

Caloocan City opted to go environmental by decorating their *sambalilo* with plants, flowers and stems.

The barangay entries, meanwhile, were not easily upstaged. The troupe from San Martin de Porres impressed audiences with its dancers wearing Las Vegas-inspired costumes in bright fuchsia and purple.

Barangay Vitales took on the underwater concept and Barangay Tambo adopted the Moro-Moro fashion.

No one was more amused at the dancers than perhaps Marquez, who sat on the podium fronting the stage, beside the winners of the Binibining Parañaque pageant.

The 150-member Tangub City dancers, grand prize winners in Cebu City's Sinulog festival last month, were the guest performers in the Sambalilo event.

Actress Alma Moreno, Marquez's spouse, delighted the crowd with her dance number with The Kitkats, to the tune of the Sambalilo theme. The group regularly performs at Another World Resto-Bar and has also staged well-received shows in various provinces.

Alma's graceful moves and sexy grooves reminded the crowd of her glorious tanga-clad dancing days on TV's "Loveli-Ness," the musical variety show she hosted in the '80s.

The Sambalilo festival was undoubtedly a huge success, so that Marquez, this early, is reportedly thinking of an even bigger and better event next year.

Clearly, the festival adheres to Marquez's vision for Parañaque as a progressive community. It is also a strong motivation for the residents' common efforts toward unity, cooperation and understanding.

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez (center) waves from the podium

Reading as a parenting trick

(From page C1)

read and invented. My habit of reading and singing songs to her seems to have made her a very sharp girl. Once when Kiana must have been 5, she made me sing about seven songs of the "Sound of Music," like "Raindrops and Roses," "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," "Do Re Mi." She has always loved music and storytelling. Just the other day, she sang for an hour with her karaoke machine!

Gary and I have invested on books. No one can convince me that the Internet will wipe out book-reading. This is the reason we put up The Masters' Library, a Christian bookstore in Robinsons Galleria and SM Megamall, with our partners, Anthony and Maricel. There is such a distinct warmth one feels when one reads to one's child.

Through our almost nightly storytelling, my youngest and I create stories and characters that would make her giggle, squeal with delight or simply just joyfully listen to the development of the story. We both developed the gift of creating stories on the spot to feed the hungry mind and heart of Kiana for stories apart from published books.

We have the tales of Kianky (that's really fairy-tale Kiana), a Philippine princess who owns a huge home but develops love for the poor and the handicapped, someone who is endowed with all the good, biblical traits a 7-year-old child can possess.

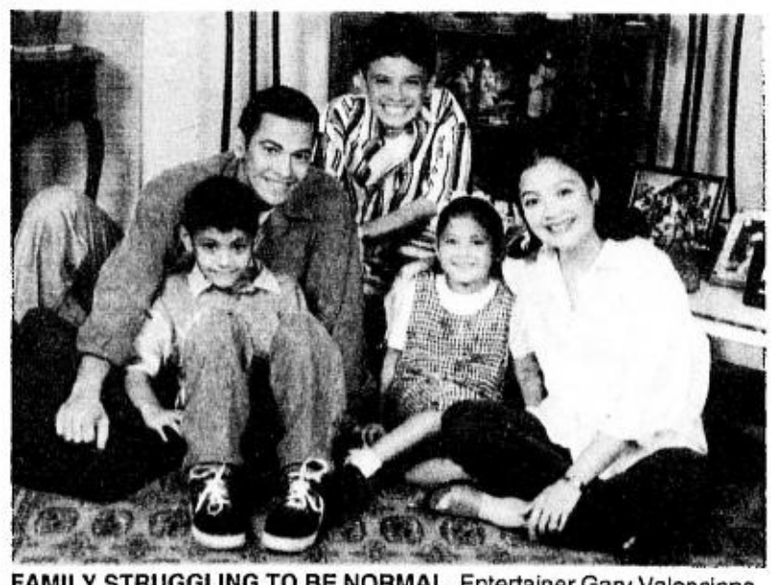
Kianky's best friend is her chum, Chunky, who came from the slums and who Kianky discovered when she escaped from her protective parents, King Abdullah and Queen Angela. The stories would bring Kianky and Chunky to the USA, to Enchanted Kingdom, to hospitals where she would save poor children, to returning a lost dog to its rightful owner, and so on and so forth. But always, the stories would end with a moral lesson. Through our Kianky stories, I have taught Kiana the importance of love, obedience, forgiveness, prayer, humility, kindness, compassion, generosity, truthfulness, sincerity and other positive values and traits. Only God's faithfulness will see her through her life. Hopefully, she would draw precious lessons from the fictional characters.

Other stories

We also have the story of Life Village where Mr. and Mrs. Righteous live with their children Modesty, Joy, Faith, Hope, Love and Honesty. Their neighbors are Mr. and Mrs. Masungit and Mr. and Mrs. Bastos. Kiana loves this particular series. Mr. and Mrs. Bastos have four children, sons Mean and Rude and daughters Jealousy and Envy. Again as we go through stories where Mr. Bastos shouts at people and Mr. Masungit never cooperates with the neighbors, Kiana laughs out loud, giggles and listens with eyes wide open, excited to hear what will happen next. Meantime, in my mind I am feverishly trying to create a situation that will elicit a wide grin from her. That always makes my day.

Many times, I even forget the stories and Kiana always reminds me of the past adventures of the families. She corrects me. This child seems to have inherited the photographic memory of my mother, Emma Monasterial Nepomuceno, who was a valedictorian during her high school days and a teacher at UP. Many times, Kiana even gives her own punch lines that really have contributed to a mother-daughter relationship that I can only thank God for. We discuss why Kianky cannot go home without helping the child in the accident, why she has to be considerate with her Yaya Lyra (Yaya Myra in real life) and so on and so forth. With hundreds of days in a year, I would run out of storylines many times and would whisper a prayer to God to "please give me creativity."

We also have the series about the little school on the mountain with Teacher Chicken and her students, Kaka, Doodle and Doo and Kookoo, Rookoo and Roo. The teacher calls the kids a lot, all together (try it and check the pun) and, of course, when Kiana was younger she would go crazy over the stories of the kids at the kindergarten school. Then there's the Body Family series, composed of the siblings Eyes, Nose and Mouth and their little sister, Chinny Chin Chin. Their parents are Papa Head and Mama Neck. Their favorite uncle, Tito Ears, who is quite deaf, is married to Tita Hair and she's always in the bathroom, shampooing when they visit her. This is a favorite of Kiana. After the impeachment, there was King Davide (remember the chief justice?) and Queen Anna (my real name) and Mikaela (Kiana's third name) who also have their own adventures.



FAMILY STRUGGLING TO BE NORMAL. Entertainer Gary Valenciano, sons Paolo and Gabriel, daughter Kiana and wife Angeli

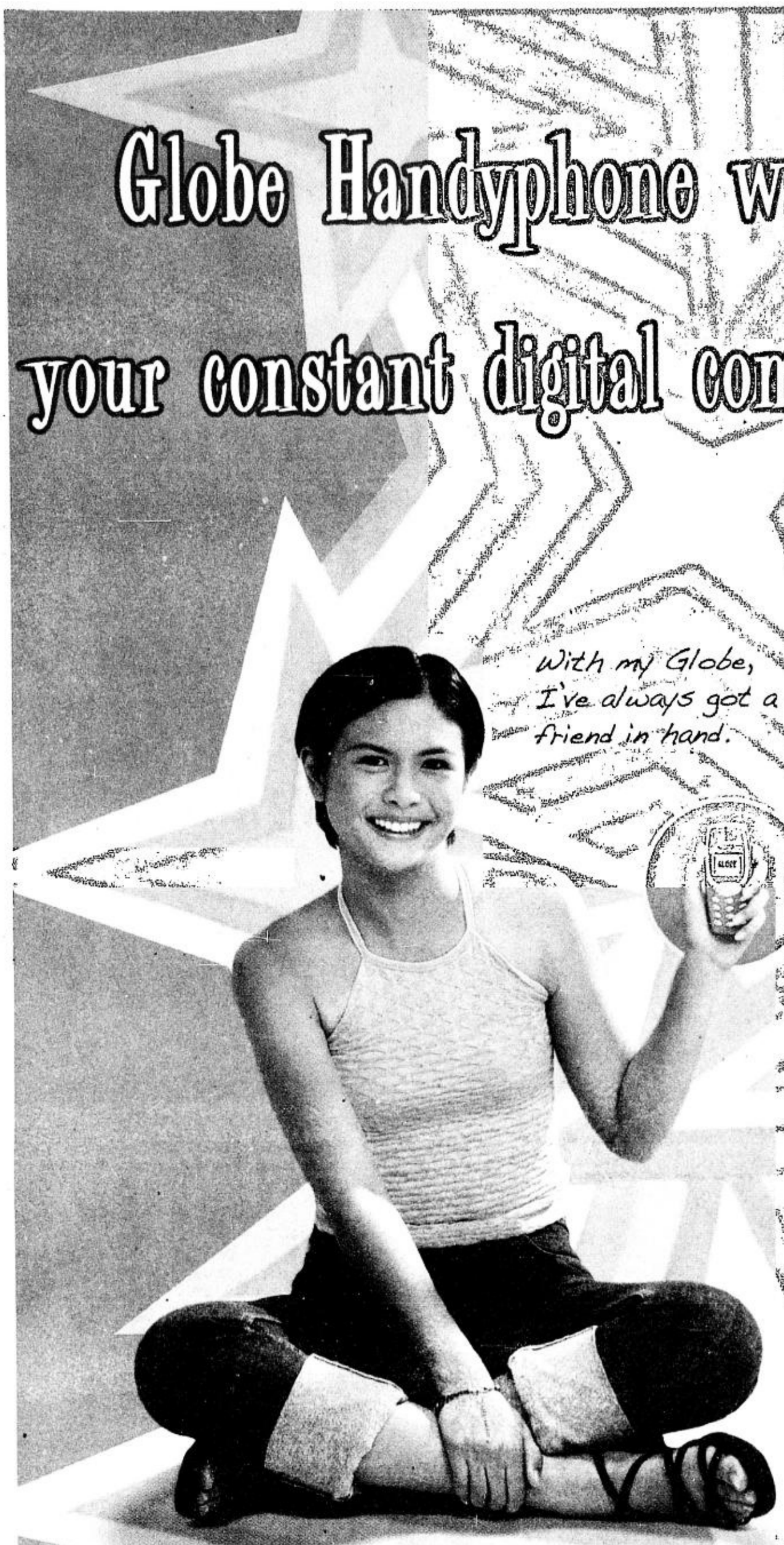
I could go on and on. I remember when Kiana was a toddler, to teach her to eat all of her food, I would sing about her different body parts and organs begging for the food because they were hungry, too. Meaning every piece of food on her plate needed to be apportioned for a particular part of the body and this really thrilled Kiana a lot.

Prayer

Using creativity to develop your child's artistic and mental skills is all it takes to stretch the kid's potential to the max. Prayer seals it all, of course. We taught Kiana the

READING/ p. C6

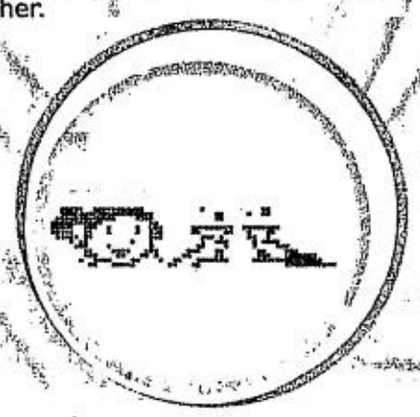
Globe Handyphone wants you to meet your constant digital companion



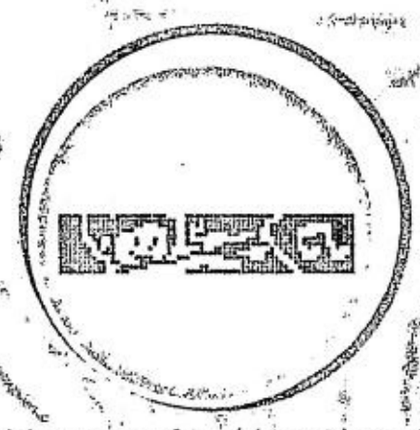
With my Globe, I've always got a friend in hand.

Globe Virtual Friend

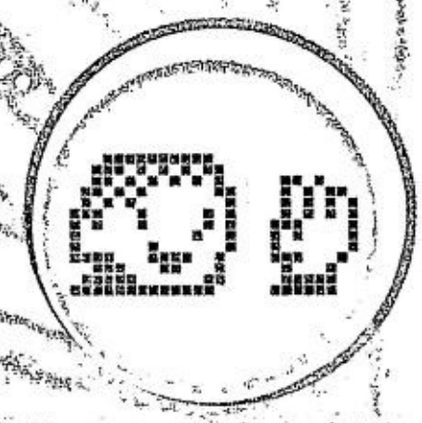
Get a Virtual Friend in your phone and discover the many fun things you can do together.



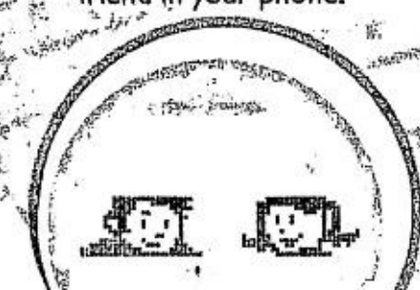
Go party. Dine together. Watch movies.



Celebrate your friendship with music.



Keep a picture of your digital friend in your phone.



Will you become Friends for Life?

What happens next to you and your Virtual Friend is up to you. The more love and care you give your Virtual Friend, the better your relationship will be. When it comes to such lovable services, Globe is all you'll ever need.

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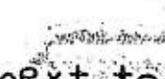
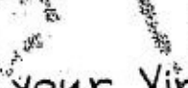
Here's how to meet your Virtual Friend:

Get introduced to your Virtual Friend by keying-in: **boy [desired name of your friend]** or **girl [name of friend]** and send it to 2333.

And here's what you can do together:



Things to do with your Virtual Friend
Listed below are the different actions you can do with your Virtual Friend:
letseat, letsparty, letswatch, letsstroll, letsrelax
Type-in the keyword and fill-in the details of what you want to do and send it to 2333. Your Virtual Friend will then reply to you.

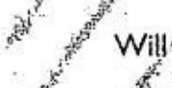


Ask advice from your Virtual Friend
Find out what your friend has to say about your problems by keying-in: **should [then your question which can be answered with a "yes" or "no"]** then send it to 2333.

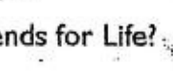
Know how you two are doing
Find out the status of your relationship by keying-in: **Hi [name of your Virtual Friend]** and send it to 2333.

Each successfully sent request to 2333 costs P2.00 for plan subscribers and P2.50 for Prepaid Plus.

Special Treats:



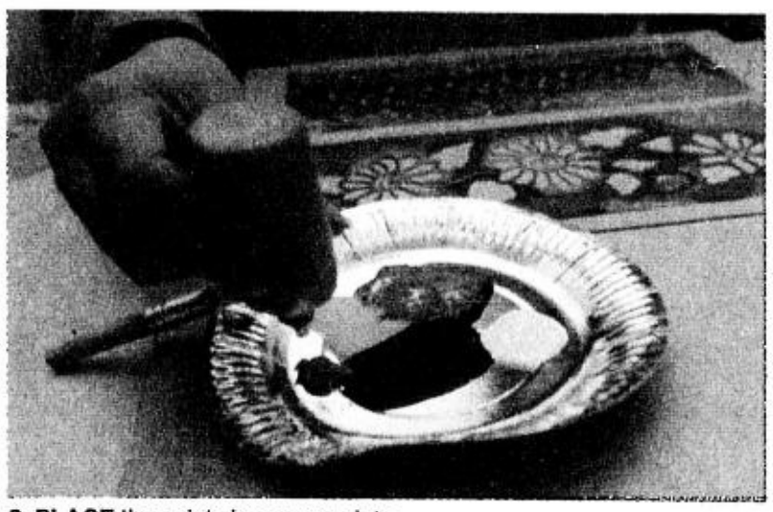
Get a Photo of your Virtual Friend
Key-in: **Take picture** and send to 2345. You will then receive a special GlobeIcon which shows the last activity you did together. (Only available for selected Nokia phones).



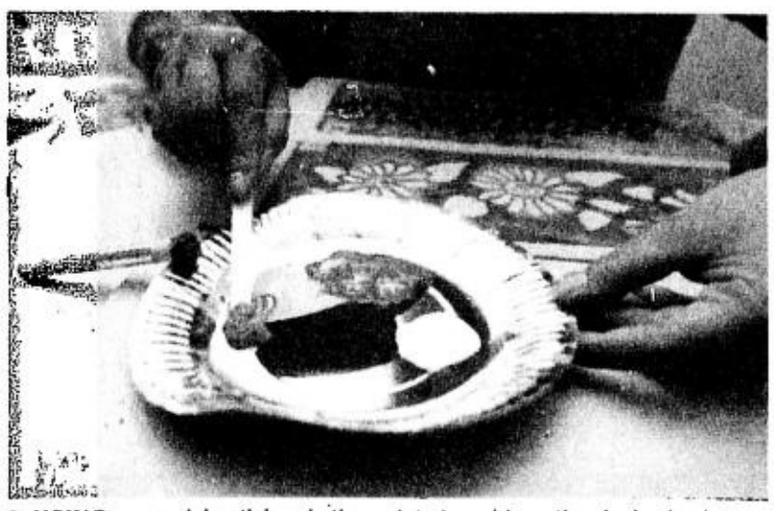
Get to hear your theme song
Key-in: **our song** and send to 2345. You will receive a special GlobeTone that says something about how well (or how bad) your friendship is going.

Each successfully sent request to 2345 costs P20.00 for plan subscribers and P25.00 for Prepaid Plus.

1. **ATTACH** a strip of masking tape on both ends of the design.



2. **PLACE** the paints in a paper plate.



3. **USING** a popsicle stick, mix the paints to achieve the desired color.

The wonders of the stencil

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

NEED to spruce up your house? You don't have to get professional help. You can smarten up your house all by yourself through... stenciling.

Stenciling is the unique method of applying a pattern or design to a surface using a thin sheet of paper, cardboard, metal or plastic from which shapes or figures have been cut out. Then, a paint or ink is rubbed, brushed or pressed over the sheet, passing through the perforations and onto the surface. In short, it's a special form of painting over cutout designs.

People are often dismissive of stenciling, saying that they did stenciling at school and thought it rather a naive art. However, when they see just what is possible from the method today, they are astounded. The expertise of modern stencilers has raised the art form to new heights.

"There are numerous stencil designs one can make today," says Carmen Prieto, an artist and decorative arts teacher at the Ayala Museum. "And you don't even have to be an artist to produce excellent results."

Stenciling seems a difficult task at first. But when you ask people who are into it, they will be one in saying that stenciling is a relaxing, satisfying and artistic hobby. It does not take long to learn and is extremely rewarding. After taking a little time to practice, you will be able to use your newfound talent almost anywhere.

The chosen projects can be quite large as in home decoration or as small as ornamental trinket boxes. With a few simple stencils, you can transform any plain surface around your house like lampshades, doors, cupboards, headboards or kitchen walls into classy and graceful art pieces.

Carmen says there are wonderful stencils and a variety of paints available in the market that you should have no difficulty in finding exactly what you want.

Stencil made easy

Most stencil designs are imported and are available locally through True Value and Craft World. These are precut designs of flowers, ivy leaves, animals, toys and what-have-you. But you can also create your own design by cutting from wallpaper, coloring books or clothes.

Most stencils are made of plastic or cardboard. However, you can also use paper but for one-time use only. If you want to make your own design, the first thing to do is to photocopy the choice design. Instead of using a paper for the photocopy, use an acetate, a clear plastic film. After photocopying, there will be black spots. Using an art knife, carefully slice the design to make it as your stencil.

Stencil has evolved to produce a number of very different styles, from chic and sophisticated to jazzy and modern. Carmen says budding stencil artists should choose for a first project a pattern with big designs because the bigger the design the easier it is to cut out. Other designs may be more complex. But this does not mean they are difficult to use. Once you are able to cut one hole cleanly from your stencil material, cutting more is just a matter of repetition.

The same theory applies to the application of the color. Once you have colored one hole, you can apply color to all.

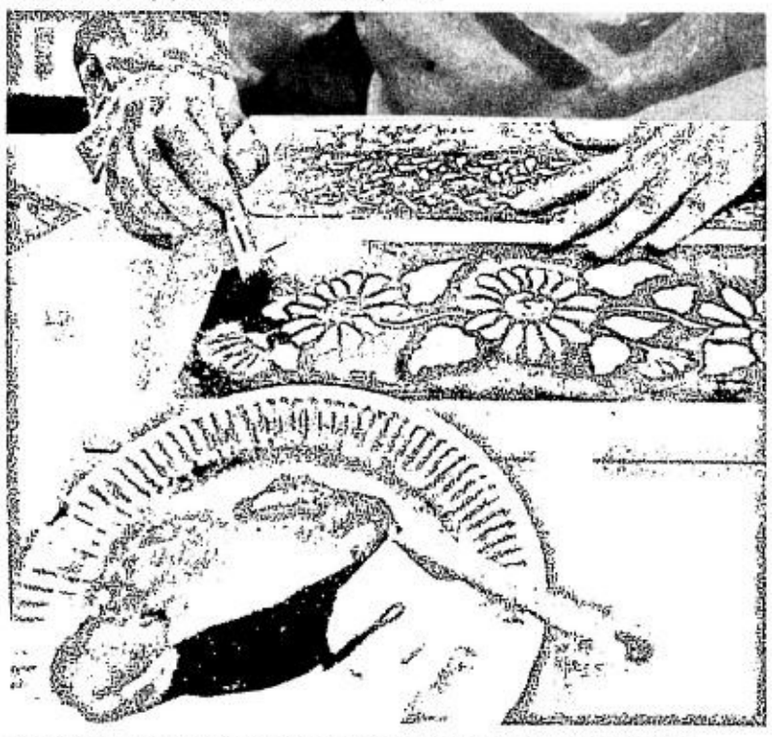
Be creative in your designs and imagine how they would appear in different color combinations, Carmen advises. This will give you confidence when you choose your own color schemes. Also mix your favorite designs to make different borders and motifs. This is not difficult and will stimulate your design senses.

To begin stenciling, you will need the following materials: a stencil design, a sponge, a popsicle stick for mixing paints, paper plate or styrofoam, paint brushes in different sizes (including a make-up applicator for painting thin lines), art knife or cutter, latex acrycolor paint (Boysen, Nippon or Dutch Boy) and polyurethane water-based varnish to seal the art work.

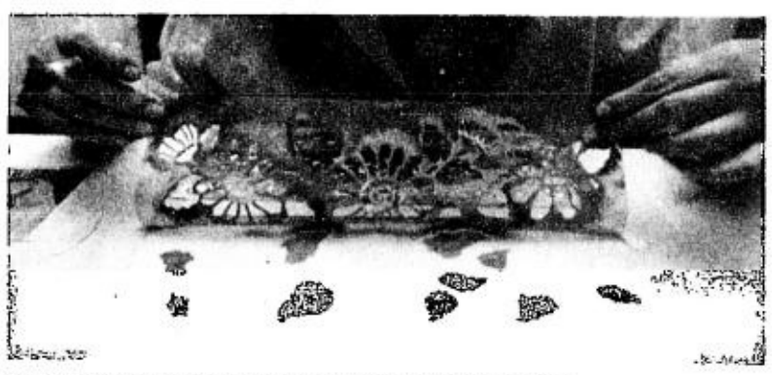
Carmen offers some tips for beginners: the paint must be a little dry, not too wet or it will bleed. Apply paint in a pouncing motion. Let it dry for 10 minutes. Immediately wash your paintbrush the moment you finish using it, otherwise acrylic paint dries fast and it stiffens the brush.

If you commit a mistake, don't despair. Simply use liquid paper to remedy it. Finish each artwork with polyurethane water-based varnish to seal it.

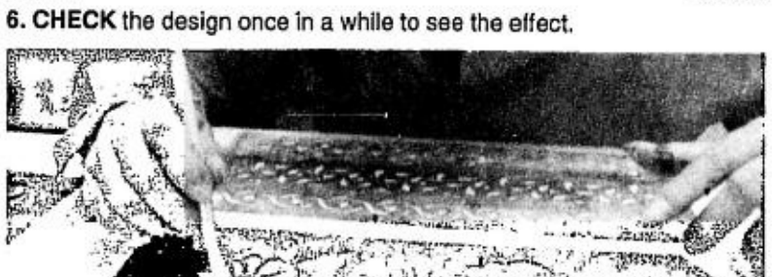
4. **GENTLY** dip paintbrush onto the plate.



5. **CAREFULLY** apply paint with a pouncing motion on the design.

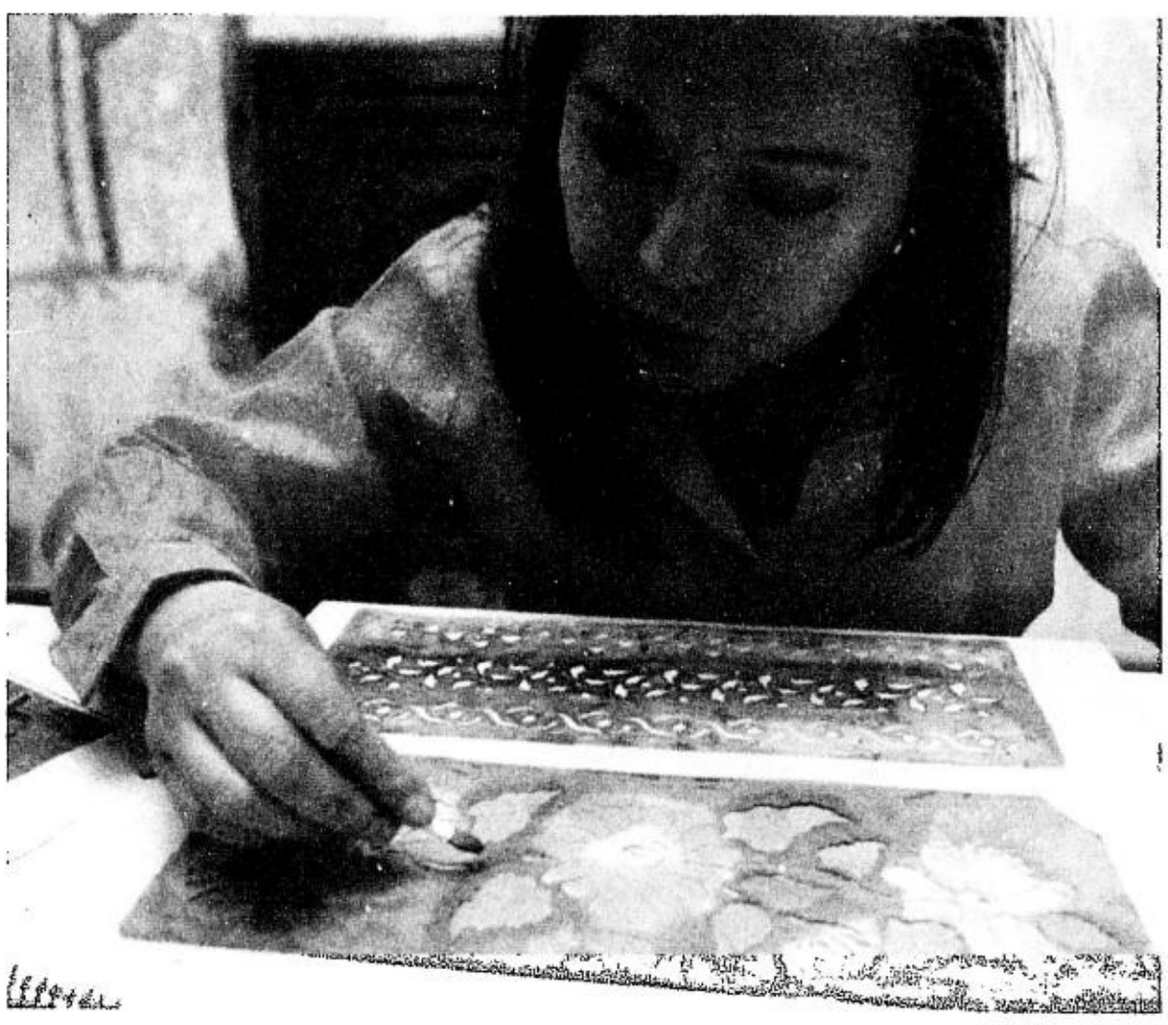


6. **CHECK** the design once in a while to see the effect.



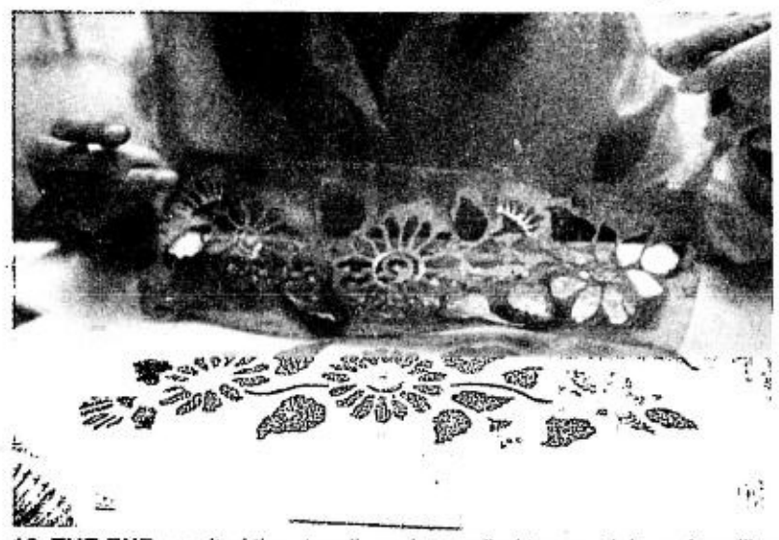
7. **USE** a slim brush and carefully paint the flowers.

8. **IN SOME** cases, cut the tip of the brush if it becomes stiff.

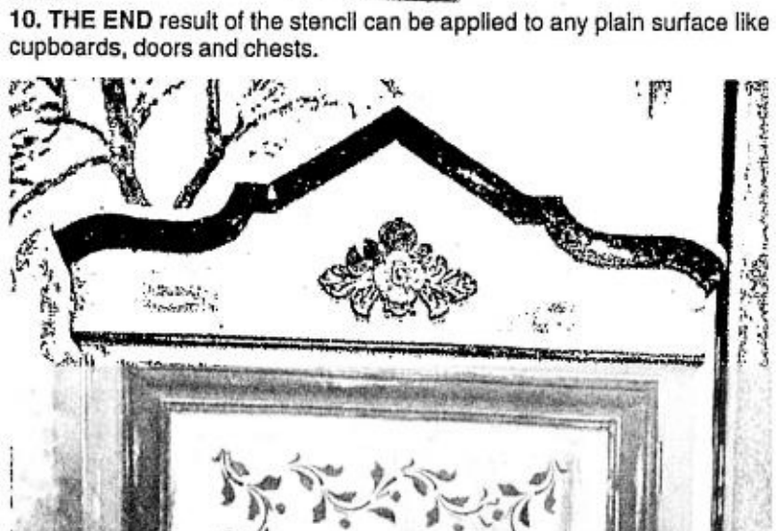


Stenciling is no longer sophomoric art. It has come of age

9. **USE** an eye makeup applicator or cotton buds for the thin lines.



10. **THE END** result of the stencil can be applied to any plain surface like cupboards, doors and chests.



11. **AN OLD** chest becomes a decorative artwork.

Reading as a parenting trick

(From page C4)

"ACTS" way of praying where you first "adore" and praise God, then "confess" your sins, then "thank" Him for the day and for all the blessings, and lastly "supplicate" or ask favors or blessings from Him.

As I was watching my gutsy Kiana, singing solo at the Araneta Coliseum during the "Radical" concert of Gary, tears just welled up in my eyes because I could see that my little girl was growing up. She even has a crush! (Poor Gary!) When she won the Awit Award for Best Child Recording Artist last year, I could not even fathom how this could have happened. God was so good that He even gave us a bonus by making her receive Best Christmas Recording for Gary's song, "Once Again It's Christmas." What an honor! Glory to God, that's all I can say.

Also in the concert, Gabriel danced like a Manoeuvre and Paolo acted like a pro on the video. What a feeling that was to witness our three treasures sharing the stage with their father! What an awesome responsibility we parents have over our children. We have the capacity to make or break them. I do not want to wake up one day to find out that they are all grown up and gone, and I did not contribute in any way to building a legacy that would shine through another generation. When I finally meet my Maker and am graded for my handling of my family, I hope God will say, "Well done." I really want to prepare for that, given the limitations I may have as a working mom. Of course, I rely on His grace, which I know will always be sufficient for me.

PRINCESS Klanky and Queen Mom

A barometer of parenting style

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

AS family life no longer offers growing numbers of children a sure footing in life, schools are left as the No. 1 place communities can turn to for correcting kids' deficiencies in academic, emotional and social competence. But this is not to say that schools alone can stand in for all the social institutions that too often are in or nearing collapse. But since every child goes to school (at least at the outset), it offers a place to teach children with basic lessons for living that they may never get otherwise.

In these hard times, it is unusual for busy mothers and fathers to find time to relax with their kids or help them in their school work. The task of earning a living to provide for the needs of the family consumes most of their waking hours.

Thus, most parents hire private tutors for their children, especially those who cannot cope in class. As the market goes strong, individual instruction has indeed become a lucrative profession.

Payment, given either weekly or right after each meeting, goes as high as P350-P500 per hour or as low as P200 per hour or P1,000-P2,500 a month. And it involves either one or all subjects in elementary or high school.

"I don't see it as a profitable sideline. It's stressful, especially when you want to go malling or rest at home," says Irmina Umali, an elementary teacher at La Salle Greenhills.

"But it is for those who find it an easy way to make money," says Teresita Meer, a professor at the University of Santo Tomas' (UST) College of Pharmacy who is also preoccupied with her doctorate in development studies at the same university.

Need for tutoring

In 5th century Athens, parents employed private tutors in a wide range of subjects. The Sophists, teachers who were paid fees for their lessons, strove to educate the complete individual and filled the educational gap. Any academic learning was provided by them.

Today, tutoring has been in great demand because most parents are preoccupied with their work. "But when they have the time to help their children, they easily lose temper when their kids commit errors. So to avoid conflict, they just finish the homework of their children," explains Umali who has taught at Holy Trinity Academy, Don Bosco School, Immaculate Conception Academy and the University of Regina Carmeli.

She also adds that some parents are overbearing, lose patience with their children's ineptness, raise their voices in disgust or exasperation that they even put their kids down as stupid.

It's understandable that all parents want their children to do well in school, that giving them a helping hand is their normal function. But by protecting them from failure by constant coaching, parents deprive them the chance to learn from their mistakes.

"There are bright students, who are even in the honor roll, whose parents provide them still with tutors because they want their kids to maintain their high grades and their being honor students," adds Meer who has been teaching for more than 20 years now.

Like Meer and Umali, Abel Villamar, a Science and Math teacher at UST for 10 years now, had also encountered students whose parents' method of instruction are faulty. "Modern Math, Science and other subjects today are so different from what parents have learned during their student days. So tutoring their own children can do more to confuse than enlighten them."

Majority of children who do poorly in school, Villamar adds, finds it hard to cope with family problems. "I try to adjust to the situation by befriending the student. I also try to talk to his parents about his problems and subjects. If he continues to resent having a tutor, he won't learn anything."

Hundreds of studies show that how parents treat their children—whether with harsh discipline or emphatic understanding, with indifference or warmth—has deep and lasting consequences for the kids' emotional and social life.

Pros and cons

According to Didi Perez of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, there are no laws or policies that regulate individual instruction. "It's up to the school or university to come up with rules regarding tutoring."

"Since 1987, UST's elementary department has enforced a policy stating that elementary teachers are not allowed to tutor elementary students. But they can tutor high school and college students from the same university," Meer says.

"Teachers were allowed then to tutor their own students on the subjects they were teaching. But the downside was the mentor would be embarrassed to fail the student, if he deserves it, for the student's parents might expect that their child would get better grades," Umali says.

Although tutoring indeed helps students improve their performance in class and aid in developing good study habits, Meer, Umali and Villamar say that many children become dependent on private tutors. "A tutor should serve as guide and support but he should not do the homework of the student," Umali says. "It's better to err on the side of too little help than too much."

Experts say that doing assignments for a child encourages helplessness and dependency. He grows up feeling incapable and sees his tutor as the expert who'll solve all his problems.

A tutor cannot possibly transfuse all his knowledge into a child's brain. A homework done with an instructor does not guarantee that the kid has absorbed everything.

"A child should be taught techniques in studying by himself. Outlining the main points in a chapter is an example. The student learns to glean the important data, thereby shortening tutorial hours," Meer says.

But the most important thing a tutor must keep in mind is "never to give up on a child because teaching is a calling. One should give his best in sharing study techniques with a kid," Villamar adds.

The three educators believe they should help each student to grow and learn all that he can for his own sake. For them, the main purpose of education is to give the kid an understanding of the world he lives in and to encourage him to work toward solving his problems. They don't think of education as merely preparation for life but rather as part of life itself.

In the process, they become friends with their students and even with the latter's families. "I met one whom I tutored when she was still in high school. She's now taking education because, according to her, she wants to become a teacher like me," Umali relates. "Some of my students call me their second mother while the others have become my godchildren," Meer says.

But Meer, Umali and Villamar all agree that the only kind of help a child needs is understanding and interest from his parents. When parents take time to listen, youngsters will find learning an exciting advantage rather than a tedious chore.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Individual instruction has inspired many teachers to go beyond their traditional mission

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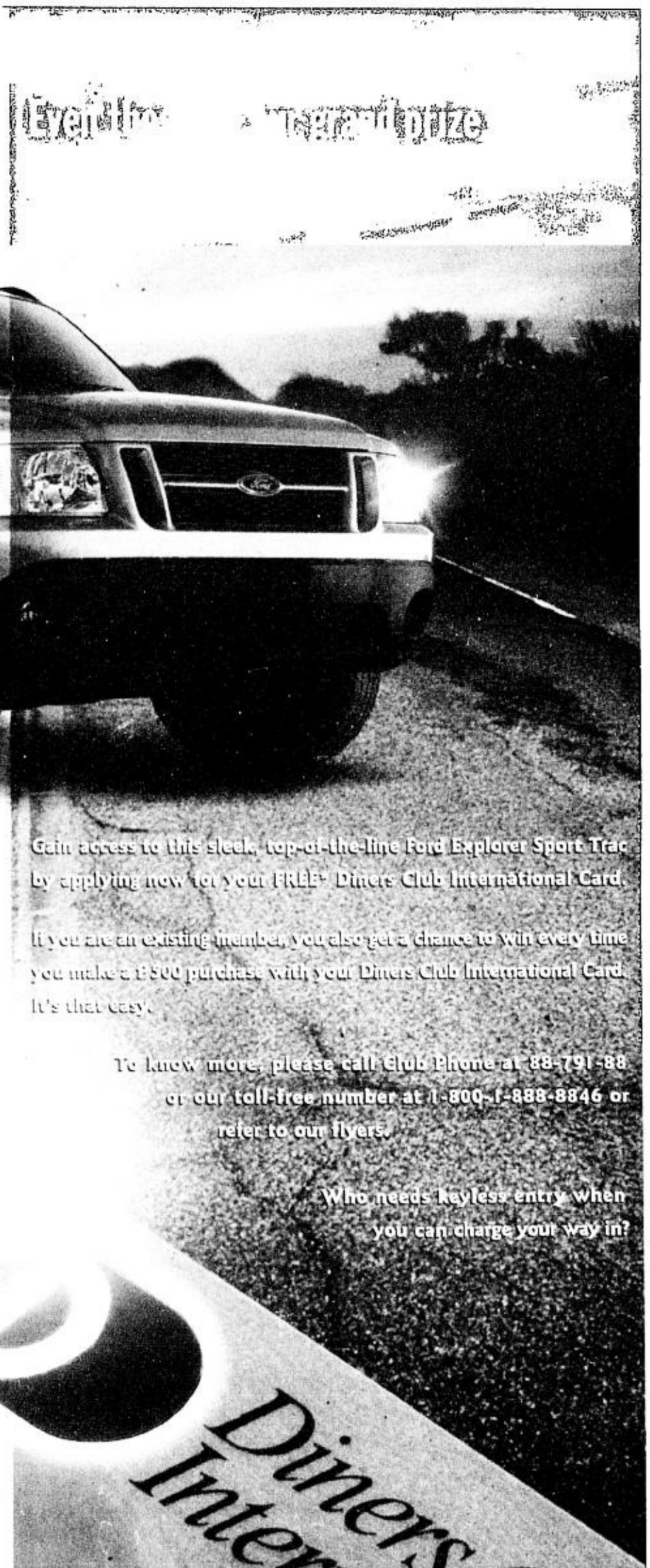

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Beacon of light

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

JOSE Rizal's first teacher was his mother, Teodora Alonso, who played a major role in shaping the man and hero he was to become.

Early this month, on a balmy, moonlit evening, Avon, the company for women, together with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, gave honor and recognition to this year's 12th Gintong Ilawan-Teodora Alonso Educators Awards for the Most Outstanding Female Private Secondary School Principal. A yearly event hosted by Avon and DECS, this was the first time educators from the private secondary school sector were bestowed the honor.

This year's most outstanding principal radiates with compassion for the lost and the least

TEACHERS RULE. Regional winners with Avon officials

Nationwide search

Fifteen regional awardees from provinces covering Isabela to Cotabato were feted at a dinner and program held at the courtyard of the Filipinas Heritage Library on Ayala Avenue in Makati. Malou Dy Buncio, general manager for Avon, highlighted the importance of education in her welcome address by saying that a good education was truly one's "*tanging yaman*," wealth that cannot be taken away. She also expressed her belief that in each woman there's a Teodora Alonso, model educator and teacher who can create a lasting impression and influence on a young child's life.

Education Secretary Raul Roco, on the other hand, related the story of the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" and likened it to the state in which we find so many of our children who have been lost and gone astray. Roco underscored the need for change in society and how this change could be effected through good teachers whose needs, he also said, have to be addressed by the government.

Regional winners were composed of 15 exemplary high school principals chosen from across the land by a distinguished board of judges composed of Dr. Roberto Borromeo, president, Fund for Assistance to Private Education; Dr. Minda Sutaria; Corazon Alma de Leon, former commissioner of the Civil Service Commission; journalist Ceres Doyo; Dr. Eduardo Morato, dean, AIM; Dr. Fe Hidalgo, assistant secretary for special projects and programs, DECS; Cora de la Paz, chair and senior partner, Joaquin Cunanan & Associates.

Criteria for evaluation were based on achievements/impact on people, educational system and community; professional competence (managerial/leadership skills and professional growth); and personal attributes.

Each regional winner was awarded a gold medal and P20,000 each for the individual and the school she represented. The grand prize was P100,000 and a beautiful trophy cast in stone depicting the image of Teodora Alonso and a young Rizal for the winner; P30,000 and a trophy for the school represented plus an educational grant to Japan courtesy of DECS.

Sr. Anna Carmela Seron Pesongco, RA, of Assumption Iloilo was chosen as this year's Most Outstanding Female Private Secondary School Principal.

Instrument of healing

Sister Anna is the embodiment of the Assumption philosophy of education, which is to "allow the good in every person to break through the rock that imprisons it, and bring it into the light where it can blossom and shed its radiance." In her acceptance speech, Sister Anna called the Gintong Ilawan a celebration of light, "the light we hold in our hearts," she said with great emotion. Educators, she said, need to be an instrument of healing to bring the light of wisdom and knowledge, and the light of credibility and transparency to the oppressed. "And to the lost, last and least, we need to bring the light of compassion."

A principal for 16 years, one of Sister Anna's greatest challenges was the implementation of the Consolidation Mandate given to Assumption Iloilo. Under her leadership, all consolidated member schools collaborated in an effort to concretize their mission and goals. The concept was new, and had no blueprint.

The member schools, namely, Assumption Passi, Barrio Obrero and Sibalon, each had unique and different realities and needs, and finding a common ground was challenging. But the effort proved to be worth it, indeed, as the academic community now enjoys an atmosphere of sharing and solidarity. Its first undertaking was the organization of the First Assumption National Educators' Congress, which empowered the lay administration and faculty to fully share and contribute to each other's vision.

MODEL TEACHER. Sr. Anna Carmela Pesongco

Prior to her present position in Iloilo, Sister Anna was also principal of Assumption Antipolo for five years. At that time, the sleeping giant Mt. Pinatubo erupted, resulting in massive destruction in various communities. Sister Anna worked tirelessly to mobilize the Pinatubo Drive, which involved students, parents and the wider community in invaluable outreach programs. She also made sure the event was integrated into the curriculum to inspire concern and awareness among the youth.

A nun with a sunny disposition, Sister Anna is constant and true to her calling, relating how all her life she had tried her best to serve the Lord in the best way possible.

That evening, toward the end of her acceptance speech, she encouraged everyone in the audience to "be used by God Whose light He has placed in our hearts to transform darkness into the light wherever He has placed us."

Sr. Anna Pesongco is a model educator who radiates with the Light of the Father as she gently leads the lost, the last and the least back into His fold.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Touched by a three-star Angel

THERE was something that Gen. Angelo Tomas Reyes did occasionally during the often lighthearted give-and-take of Playtime that struck the Lifestyle staff as conduct truly becoming of an officer and gentleman. He took time to ponder his answers to questions that, even to us, sounded serious enough to invite misinterpretation.

The man, after all, did not get to lead the nation's armed forces by being a bumbling fool. General Reyes graduated from the Philippine Military Academy, took his master of business administration at the Asian Institute of Management and pursued his master of public administration at Harvard University.

PLAYTIME

By the staff

After PMA and training at Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna, Reyes was assigned as aide-de-camp to the commanding general, 1st Infantry (Tabak) Division. He was second lieutenant. Then, upon the decree of General Espino that young officers should not serve as aide-de-camp, Reyes was sent to basic infantry. When his commanding officer became the Philippine Army's commanding general, he was called to be aide-de-camp again until the general retired. Later, Reyes became vice president of the account management division and concurrently manager of the corporate plans division of the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System.

He also served as military assistant to then Prime Minister Cesar Virata up to the 1986 Edsa revolution. It was, however, his role in Edsa when the lightning of people power struck again in January that made him a latter-day saint of sorts.

At 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan 19—three days into the Edsa show of force—the Chief of Staff met with his aides at his quarters. He asked his men one by one what they thought about the situation. They discussed a worst case scenario—what would happen if they just sat and waited? By 10:30, they had a decision.

He admits he agonized over the decision to turn his back on Joseph Estrada, who had anointed him as chief of staff in the first place. So deeply did he feel for the man that he was seen on TV wiping tears from his glasses while escorting Estrada and family out of the Palace that historic Saturday.

From the time the *jueteng* scandal broke out to the day the second envelope provoked the second People Power movement, the Armed Forces was consistent, according to Reyes. "We did not take sides."

It did not matter to Reyes whether Estrada was guilty or not of the charges that rocked his presidency. The decision to uphold the interest of the Filipino people and go to Edsa was based on the dreadful possibilities if things took a turn for the worse. "What was important was the future," says Reyes, who did not have to vacate his post after Estrada left because he was immediately appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as chief of staff.

Will he be coming out with his own tell-all book about the crucial hours during the Second People Power? "Everybody has a story to tell," says the AFP chief, who is looking forward to retiring middle of this month.

Is the status of your position final? What's the word from Malacañang?

Oh, I'm retiring on March 17.

So what are you going to do after that?

Hmmm... Retire.

Have you been offered the [position of Secretary of the] Department of National Defense?

You may want to ask the President about that.

But if you're offered will you accept it?

I'm not applying...

If you're offered by the President...

Hmmm... My usual answer there is, I'll cross the bridge when I reach it. *Kasi* if you say you won't accept it, that's rude; you say you will accept it, *parang* you're applying for the job; I'm not.

Do they rotate the Armed Forces chief of staff position among the services?

Ideally, what should happen is not rotate in the sense *na* Army *ngayon 'yan* so next time Air Force then Navy *naman* [but] the various services should have... not equal but adequate shot at it. It's not good *na puro* Army *na lang ang nagiging* chief of staff, to shut out the Navy or the Air Force. It's good that at that particular level, you have at one time or another varying perspectives and points of view. *Kasi 'pag ang* chief of staff from Air Force, of course not necessarily he'll be biased in favor of, but the Air Force perspective will be presented from a better light or vantage point.

Are you endorsing anybody?

Traditionally, and necessarily, the chief of staff must be consulted [for the replacement]. Ideally, because the position is not elective, it's appointive. And the appointing authority would be better advised to consult the incumbent because, No. 1, you're President [but] you don't really know these guys, and we've been together for the past 37, 38 years.

Have you been consulted then?

On a continuing basis, yes.

There has not been a chief of staff from the Navy

TOUCHED/ p.D2

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Touched by a three-star Angel

(From page D1)

or Air Force for a very long time? Isn't it high time that the appointee should be from the Navy or Air Force?

That's what I was saying, that perhaps it is high time... For instance, the most recent chief of staff was General Acedera. Mariano, Acedera and myself, we had three Army guys. There was never a Navy chief of staff. The closest they got to it was Biazon, Marines—part of the Navy but not really Navy in the sense *na* white-capped sailor. He was chief of staff after De Villa for three months.

There are people who say that the DND should be headed by a civilian. But are there advantages to a military man heading the DND?

Of course, definitely... The AFP is but one bureau under that department. The AFP is not DND. You have other bureaus under it. *'Yung* arsenal, veterans, civil defense disaster portion, national shrines... Let's put it this way: if you're a retired military man, you're already a civilian. So maybe the question is whether it's advisable to have a "military mind" there, or whether there's such a thing as a military mind. Contestable *'yun, eh*. If it's a former military man, he's more familiar with the issues on security, more familiar with the people he will be leading. And he'll be high on the learning curve, supposed to be.

Ang advantage *ng* civilian secretary would be, in a military organization you would be supplying the civilian perspective. *Ang* argument *d'yan* is that the secretary of defense is supposed to be the link between the military organization, which is a bureau under it, and the civilian cabinet. It depends on what you want.

The assumption is that if you have a civilian, he understands the civilian work and less of the military work, and vice versa. Do you want him to be heavier on the perspective of the civilian leading the military or the military leading the civilian? Really, you should not stereotype people and say that military men cannot breach this, or that civilians cannot breach this. I think you should look at it on a case-to-case basis and find out if the man can do the job. I don't believe in stereotyping and typecasting.

There's little we know about you outside of your military career... For instance, where were you born, where did you grow up, where did you go to school?

As long as you don't ask when. (Laughter) I'll be 56 by March. I come from a middle-income family. Both my parents were in education. My mother started as a teacher; she graduated from UP. My father, I think, UP also. My mother later became supervisor in English in Manila, high school department. She was that for a long, long time, as far as I can remember. My father started as teacher and then became principal and retired as division superintendent of schools in Quezon City in 1963. That was his terminal job. He was superintendent of public schools for 12 years I think. I was born in Manila. My father married twice. With his first wife he had 10 children. When he married my mother he was a widower. So my father was not guilty of bigamy, *ha*. (Laughter) With my mother they had four kids, two died, so I'm the youngest in a family of 12.

I went to public schools, Cubao Elementary, Cubao High School. I stayed in Cubao for some time. We lived in the compound of former Mayor Bernardo before we transferred to San Juan. We've been in San Juan since 1963. So *taga*-San Juan *ako*.

When I finished high school I was 15. I stayed in UP for a while then I went to PMA when I reached the required age of 17. I graduated from PMA in '66. I've been with the service since then. I've been with the service since '62, in other words. That's 39 years.

Why did you decide to go into the military? Why didn't you become a teacher?

I really looked at PMA not merely as an educational institution but as a character-building institution. You go to PMA to build your character, not to get an education, although being educated is part of a person with character. That's not everything. You try to develop yourself intellectually, physically, psychologically—the total-man concept.

Did your parents discourage you from entering the military?

No, but they did not encourage me also. I think it's providential. When I was in UP Arts and Sciences taking up preparatory engineering, I had classmates in high school who went to PMA... *'yung isa*-na-turn-back. I went to visit him to find out how he was in the PMA. That was October or November. I asked, "Why are you here? How is it there?"

"It's a challenge there."

"Okay, what do I do?"

"You go to Camp Aguinaldo, get an application." (Laughs)

The advantage of PMA is, if you come from a middle-income family, aside from the free education and character-building, you graduate and automatically land a job. In other words, there's security. You don't need to apply for a job; the job goes with the education. And you're getting all these for free.

I went to Aguinaldo without my parents knowing and got an application form. I went home then just placed the application form on the table *para* they will see it and find out their reaction. The next day, my father saw the application form and said, "*Gusto mo palang pumasok sa* PMA." You need parent's signature in your application, *eh*, and he signed immediately.

Looking back I was quite... call it competitive... My parents had high expectations of me so I had to make something of myself. *Kasi 'yung* father *ko sinasabi niya*, "You are the last hope of the fatherland." (Laughter) I'm the youngest, *eh*.

How was PMA during your time?

I enjoyed it.

How was the hazing?

Again you have to look at hazing as not a barrier or obstacle or something to be dreaded. Character-building *lahat 'yan, eh*. You look at the academy and you find the system. You should understand the logic of the system. If you don't understand the logic of the system then you'll have a miserable life.

When you go there you're a plebe. And as a plebe you're the lowest form of life, lowest life form according to Miriam. You are... call it maltreated. Maltreated in the sense that you are there to receive orders, to receive punishment, etc., etc.

You receive punishment *naman* in terms of you're told to do several things. *'Yung ibang* orders impossible orders. Like, "Write my name a million times. You comply tomorrow." You know you cannot comply with that. The one who gave you the order does not really expect you to finish it but he expects that the next morning you will say, "Order is not complied with." If he asks why, you answer, "I was able to write your name only 200,000 times." And that's good enough if the upperclass man is reasonable. The worse is you say have complied when in fact you have not because that's lying. The next worse thing is you don't comply at all because you're supposed to give your superiors update on the progress of the work.

You are subjected to all kinds of pressure as plebe, that's hazing as you put it, like academic pressure, the pressure of being separated from your support system in the home, the pressure of suddenly you're with guys you've met for the first time, then you stay in the same room, you sleep in the same room, take a bath together, eat together, study together. Every day for four years. Of course now I'm talking only of the first year.

When you're in the receiving end, you are taught how to look at it from the receiving end—"followership" not leadership. You're subjected to pressure and your ability to withstand pressure is tested. We have guys there who are scholars in the universities, very bright, but they cannot withstand the pressures so they get dismissed. You have to be balanced. You must have strength and qualifications not only intellectually but psychologically and emotionally. You are taught to be aggressive but at the same time restrain yourself from exceeding the limit because your job as yearling is to contribute to the character-building, not to destroy the plebe.

Could the plebe tell on you if you exceed the limit?

He's not supposed to because that's squealing. *Halimbawa nang*-haze *ka ng plebo* and on his own he goes to Tactics and says, "I was hazed by Cadet..." that's squealing. But if the plebe lands in the hospital for bruises or broken ribs and then you are asked, you have to tell the truth, *di ba*? *'Yung* different aspects *na 'yun* you have to understand.

After that you become third year. You are now supervising the yearlings who are manhandling the plebes and to some extent, leading the plebes also. *Ang ginagawa nila d'yan sa mga* second year, the aggressive young turks, *binabanatan nila ng mabibigat na* subjects—Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry—*para magkaroon sila ng* academic pressure and will have less time manhandling the plebes. On the third year, you are now participating in restraining the yearlings and supervising the plebes. *Hindi ka na lang* "followership," you are not the drillmaster, you are supervising the drillmasters.

Did you really ask for one million people at Edsa like the text messages said?

No. What we must emphasize here is that the Armed Forces and I did not plot against the government. The decision was made only the morning of Jan. 19

AN OFFICER/ p.D3

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Touched by a three-star Angel

(From page D2)

After that you become first class, fourth year *na*. You are now administering the entire corps. You are now responsible for everything. You see to it that the plebes are properly taken care of but at the same time they are properly trained; restraining the yearlings; training the third years to take over because you're graduating in one year. The four-year span has logic. If you understand that logic . . .you will rebel against it.

Did you ever land in the hospital?

Ah, no.

Did you make somebody land in the hospital?

No... Let's look at it this way: hazing is not authorized if you define hazing as maltreatment...You're training the plebes to withstand pressure. We're not running a Boy Scout organization there or a social club. We're trying to produce men who are going to be leaders in the military. In combat you don't want weaklings there. It would be a crime to produce weaklings there. So you have to have people who understand and can withstand pressure, which you don't get when you go to... When you go to UP. Or maybe to a lesser extent. *'Yun ang* advantage nun. *'Yun lang sa* quarters, there are about 12 of you in a room. You learn about people, behavior, influencing and leading.

Do you have any sons?

Five.

Anyone in the military?

No. They looked at me and said, "One fool in the family is enough." (Laughter)

You didn't convince them of the logic of education in the PMA, the character building and all that stuff?

I didn't want to encourage or discourage them. *Kasi ang* experience *ko sa* children, if you give them the slightest hint, they will follow. And I didn't want to do that.

How do feel about that—none of your sons went to PMA?

It doesn't matter.

Do you have daughters?

Just five boys [Pablo, Angelito, Marc, Carlo and Judd].

What careers did they go into?

The first one took up commerce at San Beda; the second commerce, San Beda; the third one economics *sa* UP; fourth, information systems, La Salle. Graduates *na lahat 'yan*. The fifth is in management information systems, Ateneo.

So may hope *pa na baka mag*-enter *ng* PMA.

Ah, no more. He's in third year so he must be 19 now.

But he can still enter at his age?

Oh yes, you can enter between the ages of 17 to 21.

So you're not upset that nobody followed in your footsteps?

No.

Are you relieved?

No. Indifferent. Everybody lives his own life. You live your own life, you're responsible for its ups and downs, the pluses and the minuses. Your idea of a good life might not be the same as theirs. It's bad to influence one way or another.

They say if you have a military man for a father, he is strict, a disciplinarian, you have to toe the line. Is that how you raised your kids?

It's good that I'm now 56 and I can look back and understand the evolution of my parenting. *'Yung* first stage disciplinarian *talaga ako. Lima 'yan, eh, puro lalake pa*. When two of them quarreled, I'd call for everybody. (Laughter) "Align!" They will align from the eldest to the youngest. They knew exactly where they should stand. (Laughter) If I hear quarreling, I wouldn't ask who's quarreling, I'd say, "Call everybody!" Then, "Stand at attention!" *Totoo ito. Tapos* I'll ask from eldest going down, "*Ano'ng nangyari*?" Then they'd tell their stories, "Papa, *ganyan, ganyan, ganyan*." *Pagdating du'n sa* youngest, "Papa *hindi ako kasali*!" (Laughs) *Ang nagkasala alam na ang* punishment.

Corporal punishment?

They lie on the bed face down. (Bangs table) I hit them with slippers *lang*.

Isa lang naman. Sometimes I hit them, sometimes I say, "Up!" I don't punish them. "Kiss!" They kiss me then no more. (Laughter)

Up to what age *n'yo nagawa 'yun*?

'Yun ang sinasabi kong evolution. When they were young. *Ngayon hindi na*. . . I realized I'd been quite too strict with them. *'Yung* closeness *medyo nawala* so I'm making up now. *'Yung mga anak ko* 30 years old *na yan pero pag aalis humahalik pa sa akin. Pagdating n'yan hahalik sa akin*. I've loosened up.

***May apo na kayo*, sir?**

Wala pa.

I want to see you with your grandchildren, how loose you are! (Laughter)

Ah! I'll be very loose!

How is dating in the PMA?

You're allowed to go out Saturday evening after dinner. You're allowed to dine out, to entertain visitors. You have to get permission. We have periodic hops, *'yung* hop dance. We invite people around Baguio City. *'Yung aming* traditional, ever reliable source of "drags" or dancing partners was the nursing school there, Baguio General Hospital.

So *taga-roon si Misis*?

No, no. (Laughter) My wife [Teresita] is from Bohol. She was born in Pampanga but her parents are from Bohol and she grew up in Cebu. We had a cadet cruise where cadets go to different ports every year and they schedule it so that the cadets will be exposed to the population. So the youth will see the cadets and will be enticed to apply. *Parang* recruitment. *Na*-meet *ko s'ya roon* and she has been relentless in capturing me. (Laughter) After that when I became an officer, *panay ang sulat n'ya sa akin*. After that when I went to Cebu, *na*-meet *ko na naman s'ya*...

Alam n'yo naman ang story of courtship, the man runs after the woman until she catches him. (Laughter) The woman is running and the man is pursuing and pursuing. At the proper time she turns back and catches him with a net. (Laughter)

Can you marry while you're in the PMA?

No. You have to graduate first. When you apply, single and never been married.

When did you get married?

Three years after graduation, 1969.

***Naka-ilang* girlfriends *kayo* before you married your wife?**

Meron din. Serious *ba o*... (laughter) serious flings?

Passionate.

Yeah, *meron. Hindi naman marami*. (Laughter)

***Isang* battalion?**

No *naman*.

When you were being assigned from one posting to another, *kasama ang pamilya n'yo*?

No. They stayed in San Juan. *Mga* '96 *lang ako nagkaroon ng* quarters *sa* (Camp) Aguinaldo.

You know the saying "a girl in every port"?

Yes. That goes for the Navy. (Laughter) You develop infatuation. But... you control yourself. You become too involved and it becomes a problem, *di ba*? *Madali akong* ma-in love, *eh*.

How do you relieve the loneliness and pressures of work?

It's only lonely if you think it's lonely... *Tama ba 'yun*? (Laughs) You should know how to entertain yourself. You create your own environment. You determine the pace of what you will do. You can be commander and stay in your quarters and not do anything, wait for chow. (Laughter) In my case I keep myself busy. *Kaya ka nasa serbisyo* not to pass time. You're there to do work and make something of yourself and your job.

How about weekends?

When you're with the service there's no such thing as a weekend in the sense that "Saturday and Sunday off *ako*." You could take your off on a Monday... There's no difference between Sunday and Monday. If you look at it, if you're Armed Forces, you should be more alert on weekends. If you feel you need to unwind, you unwind anytime you want.

You mean if you feel like playing golf, you just go and play golf any day?

Ah, no. When I became chief of staff I prohibited golf during office hours, Monday to Friday. *Kasi na*-abuse,

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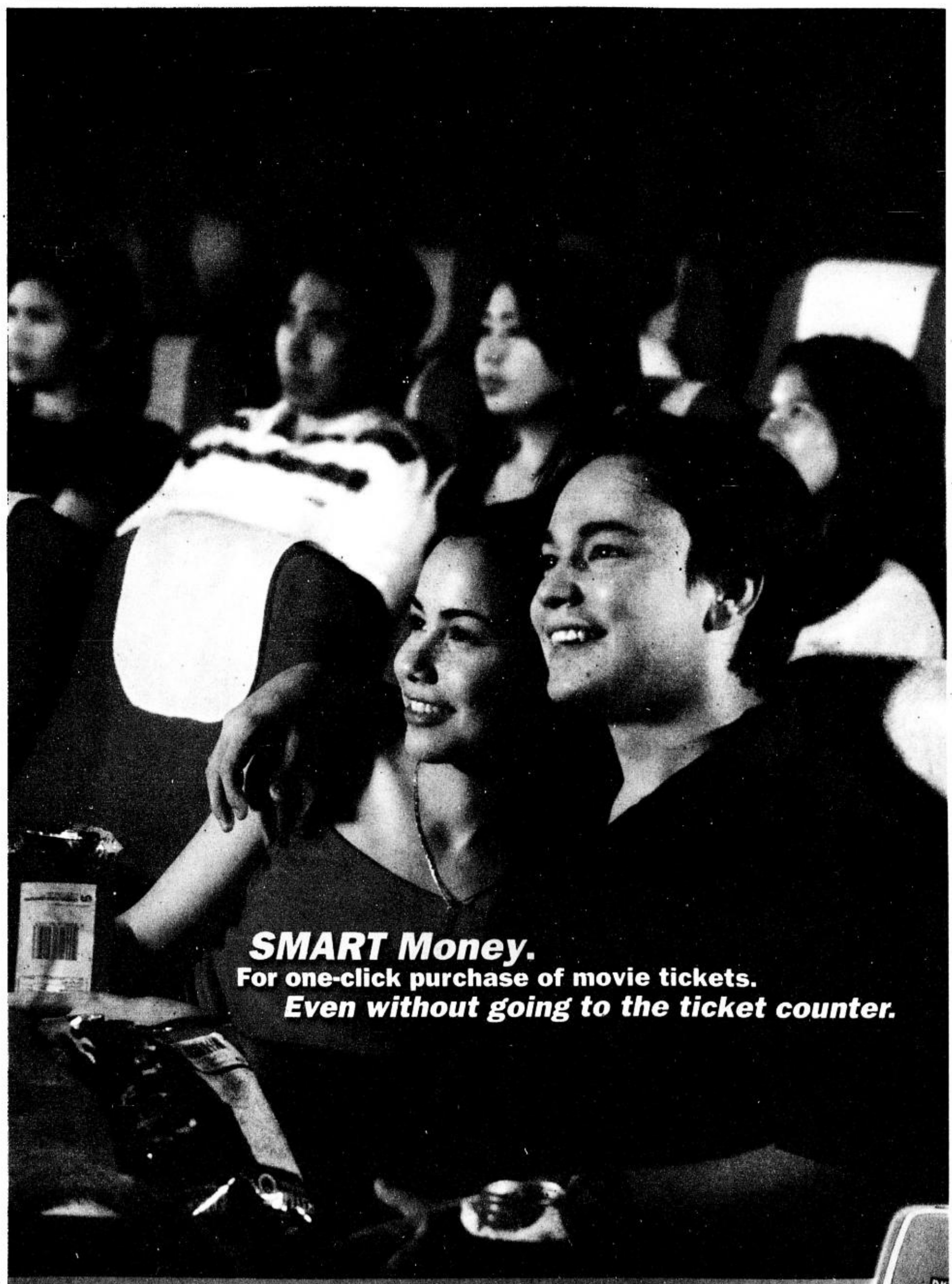


An adventure with fusion drink

THE MILLENNIUM is about fusion: melding the traditional with the contemporary, and exalting two diverse elements to come up with the most exciting result conceivable. Such concept Remy Martin recognizes.

The producer of the finest VSOP and XO has come up with the latest, most intriguing premixed sensation, dubbed the drink for the millennium: Remy Silver.

Remy Silver is a combination of the finest cognac and premium vodka, fusing the engaging warmth of the latter with vodka's sensual coolness, thus exuding a taste that has been described by a growing number of chic, hip, urban cognoscenti as "daring, audacious and very sexy."

It's a versatile premix: perfect with ice, a total adventure with cola. But whatever your preference, it's bound to be a smashing good time with Remy Silver, guaranteed to complete a hot date.

In Remy Silver's recent launch at the Limits Disco, in Ortigas, the theme was true to the contemporary feel, featuring the retro-chic appeal of TV's "Charlie's Angels," with three ultra glam vixens in hot outfits on a mission to find out Remy Silver's very provocative appeal. We know it's part cognac and part vodka, but the remaining 14 percent accounts for a taste that time and again has been described as "sensual."

With high kicks from the nimble, long-legged chicks aimed at paid thugs and an interrogation of "suspects" led by Bert Monteron, GM for Maxxium Phils., Dong Saga, product manager for Whiskies and even senior marketing top cat Randy Uson, the lead pointed toward a safe, which exploded spectacularly, keeping Remy Silver's secret intact among the growing number of hipsters who enjoy it.

The exciting introduction by Maxxium of Remy Silver segued beautifully to a fashion show with models donning sexy outfits in the millennium's fusion metal colors, upping the glam factor and temperature tenfold. Maxxium's trademark hot and rocking parties went on to peak to a lively party where the hip crowd danced to the beat of the live band while sipping the incredibly enjoyable Remy Silver.

Leave it to Maxxium to make every night out as spectacular as it is exciting and sensual, this time, with Remy Silver.

THE MAXXIUM Phils. sales force during the launching of the daring and audacious encounter of fine cognac and premium vodka, Remy Silver

REMY Silver's "Charlie's Angels"

Black-and-white look

(From page D8)

or even, who knows, an article.

TNT tidbits

Cool comfort café. I recently was in Cibo and bumped into **Margarita Fores** who told me of her new baby (nope, not that kind) with longtime beau **Alvin Lim.** They have opened a new restaurant called Café Bola at the newly renovated Araneta Coliseum Arcade (near Starbucks). It features cool comfort food like *adobo* flakes with *kesong puti* sandwich, pasta with crab fat and meatballs on sandwiches, pasta or rice, to name a few. Definitely, this will be another feather on her cap and will be hugely successful!

Grammy's highest note. I caught the airing of the Grammy Awards on Channel [V] last week. Although it was a ho-hum experience, I must say **Toni Braxton**'s gown blew everyone away! Last year, **Jennifer Lopez** stole the show with her cleavage and jungle-print number by Versace. This time **Richard Tyler**'s dress (a cross between "Star Wars" and a Las Vegas cowgirl) showed cleavage and ass! I wonder what they will wear next year, probably just duct tape!

"Miss Saigon" moves. Heard that when "Miss Saigon" finishes in Manila, the production is moving to Hong Kong then to Singapore. No less than the Engineer of Engineers **Leo Valdez** will be reprising his role in the Hong Kong production. There's really no way to keep a good man down!

10 things I want to do in my life—Mareng Winnie Monsod. We start a new article on 10 things people would like to do with their lives. The list can be endless, some may want to start a business, own a Benz or go bungee-jumping. It gives you a sneak peek into a person's dreams and passions.

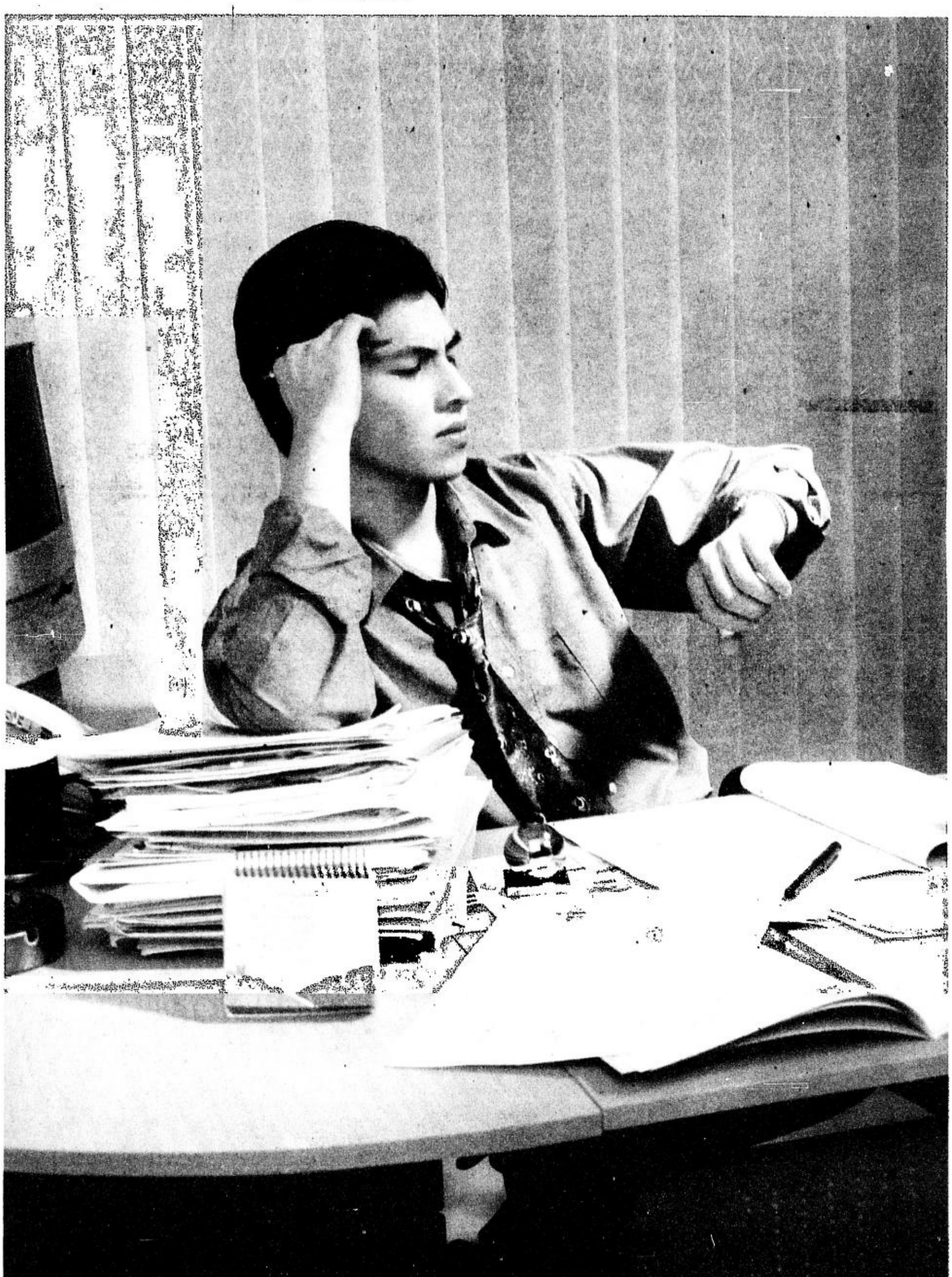
This week we start off with a dynamic lady who deserves to be in the Senate. Mareng Winnie is intelligent, blunt, witty, funny, fearless, selfless, has a passion for her country and a pulse for what we need. She's No. 1 on my list!

For the country. 1) To get our country going. Given the chance, I would like to reform the education system so we can give Filipino children the chance to get out of poverty and be integrated to the new economy. 2) I would like to get a shot at fixing the garbage problem. My secret desire is to be the garbage czar! I would like to clean the Pasig River. 3) To see the tax effort ratio go up to at least 20 percent GDP. Now it is only 14.9 percent and falling because of the bad example given by the cronies. 4) I would like to see that graft and corruption does not pay! As a demonstration effect, Mr. Estrada should be hauled off to court and, if the evidence is beyond reasonable doubt, be put to jail. 5) I would like to get Mr. Estrada. The anti-graft and corruption act should be such that being caught will be really a pain. The problem is that the penalty clauses now are no longer onerous and is not a deterrent to those who are caught.

On the academic side. 6) I would like to continue teaching as long as I am able to. Teaching is my first love. This keeps me young. When you stop studying you die.

On the personal side. 7) I'd love to have a house on the beach because I love water. 8) I'd like to have more regular reunions with my children. I have five children and three are with me but are never home. 9) To go on a cruise with my entire family for our 40th wedding anniversary since it is very hard to bring our family together. 10) More grandchildren! This first grandchild is coming in May and I feel very deprived! We are negotiating for more.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.



no time to buy her flowers?

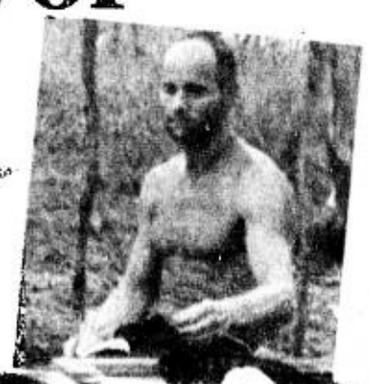
Surviving 'Survivor'

BY PENNIE AZARCON DELA CRUZ

OKAY, okay, I confess: I watch "Survivor." I didn't use to, until my children raised a howl the one time I touched the dial to catch another show. A firm believer in family harmony (and also because I suspect I'm just a wimp when it comes to my kids), I sat back and promptly got hooked.

Well, who wouldn't? Fear and loathing in frontier country. Gossip and backstabbing. Grousing and griping. Trust no one. *Outwit. Outplay. Outlast*, the blurb says. Great, just like real life politics, only more telegenic. Even the title is apt. How many figures in national politics are survivors of decades-old dispensations? Is it any wonder that the cockroach is the planet's most durable survivor?

An added attraction is the possibility of bumping off one of the 14 island stragglers in every episode. Irresistible. Instant judgment and execution. How many of us can do that to the annoying mortals who impinge on our personal space, not to mention the senator who eats her foot for breakfast? The object is of course to be the lone survivor in the Australian outback and hog the million-dollar bounty. Naked greed: the one potent ingredient that justifies bloodlust and makes for record-breaking ratings.



Meanwhile, back in the island, everyone makes much of their completely manufactured woes, as if the grubs eaten by aborigines are any worse than the exotic meat in their hotdog or that the lack of soap and shampoo are life's biggest tragedies. Hey, good excuse not to bathe. Michael the pig killer on Kimmy, the braying bartender: "When people here change their clothes, you can see their tan lines. With Kimmy, it's brown dirt lines all over her neck." The Kimmy slugfest is on and the camera records it all on prime time: Kimmy never says anything without screaming, complains Jeff. Kimmy bonds with the chicken we're going to have for dinner just so we'd feel like we ate her best friend, whines Alicia. Predictably, Kimmy gets kicked off the island and everybody looks properly contrite as the outcast walks the long bridge back to anonymity.

Adult losers

"Gross," my daughter grimaces. "This show brings out the worst in people," she adds, grabbing the *cornik* from her younger brother. Well, yes. In fact, the show reminds me of William Golding's "Lord of the Flies," where several stranded kids descend into savagery in the absence of adults and social constraints. But we're talking of adults here: relatively well-fed, educated (one was even a Harvard law student) and some outright authority figures (a cop, a parole officer).

So why are we so hooked on this group of losers?

Like the impeachment trial which exposed the venality of some of the country's most prominent personalities, "Survivor" brings out the salacious in us: what goods do they have on Kimmy or Kel? Is Elizabeth really as nice as she is? Will Jerri ever get her comeuppance for being so uppity? There is a feeling of self-righteousness, of taking the high ground, as if these people, by exposing themselves on international cable and courting international contempt for a million bucks, deserve all our venom. Sort of like a beauty contest where everyone gets off by becoming an armchair judge. *That one has bad teeth. Geez, how dumb! Her accent's as thick as her makeup.* Oh, for the shallow satisfaction of dissing people so publicly without them answering back! Oh, the lurid joy of feeling infallible like Greek gods watching mere mortals blunder through their maze! Oh, the bonding that cement all cable viewers who hate Kimmy! And this buzz of power! Back on the couch, remote control in hand, we can press a button and banish the entire sorry spectacle from our sight. Call it catharsis, a way to let off steam and expunge the badness that political correctness keep tightly under lid. Call it releasing our inner wacko. Perhaps in a million years, when anthropologists study the contours of our skulls, they'd be able to put a scientific name to this our insatiable urge to dump on others. By then it'd be totally legit. Even healthy and natural.

In the meantime, shouldn't the blurb be changed to the more accurate *Outwit. Outplay. Outhouse*? Pass me the popcorn please…

'Survivor' with a gender twist

HAVE you heard about the next planned "Survivor" show?

Six men will be dropped on an island with one van and four kids each, for six weeks. Each kid plays two sports and either takes music or dance classes. There is no access to fast-food. Each man must take care of his four kids, keep his assigned house clean, correct all homework, complete science projects, cook, do laundry, etc. The men only have access to television when the kids are asleep and all chores are done: There is only one TV between them and there is no remote.

The men must shave their legs and wear makeup daily, which they must apply themselves either while driving or while making four lunches. They must attend weekly PTA meetings; clean up after their sick children at 3 a.m.; make an Indian hut model with six toothpicks, a tortilla and one marker; and get a 4-year-old to eat a serving of peas.

The kids vote them off based on performance.

The winner gets to go back to his job.

Touched by a three-star Angel

(From page D3)

eh. You should enjoy golf but it should be as an opportunity to reenergize... If it becomes the object of the exercise, *mali na 'yun*.

You play golf?

Lousily.

What's your favorite sport?

Tennis. If you have less time, you have only two hours, you can finish. As a matter of fact I was supposed to play tennis tonight. (Laughter)

Do you have any vices?

If it's a vice then I'm not supposed to divulge it. (Laughter) I don't smoke. I really don't drink. I only drink when... I don't enjoy drinking really. I don't look for it. I won't spend even P5 for that [bottle of red wine].

What do you enjoy doing?

(Ponders) You must enjoy work. *Kasi 'pag sinabi mo*, "What do you enjoy doing?" And I say I enjoy tennis, it means that you don't enjoy working and you're looking forward to playing tennis. You must balance it. You must enjoy your work. *'Pag* all work *naman mahihirapan ka du'n*. After that you look forward to tennis. After that you look forward to working. After that you look forward to relaxing. It's the absence of it that makes you want it. After you're deprived, you want it then you enjoy it. If you say you enjoy golf, you play golf and you're no longer enjoying. And you see everything else as an obstruction to that particular enjoyment... *Kasi* if you don't enjoy your job, you better leave. You have no business being there. If you don't enjoy your job you will not make good there, I assure you.

You enjoy your job but you'll be retiring soon.

Yes. As I said there's a point of satiation. (Laughter) I've been in this job for the past 39 years—38 years, 11 months and 17 days by March 17.

Were the last months more exciting than the other years?

Yes, I think so. Compressed *'yung* excitement, from Jan. 19 to two or three weeks later. *Ngayon medyo* relaxed *na ako, malapit na akong mag*-retire, *eh*. (Laughs)

During those crucial days last January, how did you come to your decision?

(Ponders) If you have to look at that decision, you have to look at the historical framework. It's not a point-in-time thing. It's a flow. To understand what happened on Jan. 19 you have to go back to 1986...

When you're Armed Forces, you're the agency of government for several purposes. You have people creating government and you have people creating the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces is created to protect government because there are several threats to government. It's threatened by leftists, secessionists, terrorists. And because government was set up by the people you have to protect it because that's what the people want. They want this government to protect them and government is not supposed to be helpless. It has mechanisms and structures to protect itself against the threats. The only problem is if that government ceases to serve the interest of the sovereign authority, which is the people.

We go back to the period just before Jan. 19... You have the Armed Forces, you have the people and you have the government. The people put up government. Then government sets the Constitution . . . This Constitution and this government put up the Armed Forces. And as Armed Forces you obey the Constitution because that's the expression of the sovereign will.

Sometimes people think the government is not serving its interest. Government is now challenged by the people... You're Armed Forces, what do you say? You say, okay, as long as you do it within the framework of the Constitution.

People said, "Why don't you heed the people's call?" The people's call is: "Erap resign!" etc. The reason we didn't want to heed that call is that we were not supposed to. We were supposed to heed the people, and we said, "Who speaks for the people?" The demonstrators? The INQUIRER? Cardinal Sin? Cory?

If you don't want to go to personalities, you go to tangible expression of the people's will and then you go to the Constitution. The Constitution was ratified by the people.

You have differences—people versus government, to make it simple. We say, "As long as you do what you are doing within the framework of the Constitution *wala tayong problema*." We have always said that the Armed Forces must be united, professional, constitutionally oriented. That's the only way to locate yourself in the non-congruence between what the people want and what the government is doing. This political dynamics is ongoing, continuing, and that's healthy. If it's too intense, *masyadong* polarized, then there's a problem. You're Armed Forces, this thing is going on, if you side with the people, what do you end up doing? You end up toppling the government.

Let's go back to October, November last year. *Eto na 'yung juetengate*. You say, "Let's abide by what the people want." You end up siding with the people and going against the government. Is that right? No! You side with the government and go against the people. Is that right? No also!

We say, we are not an interventionist Armed Forces... If both of you, government and people, don't violate the Constitution we will have no problem. Do whatever you want to do. *Mag*-rally *kayo d'yan*, *mag*-demonstrate kayo *d'yan*, you hurl stones, whatever, *walang problema*.

The Armed Forces was consistent. We did not take sides. We didn't disperse brutally any demonstration. That was good.

You have to go back to Jan. 16, *'yung* envelop. As long as the institutions are working, as long as there is hope that government will react and solve the problem, and can react to solve the problem, then you should not intervene, because you should give government every chance to remedy the situation. The civilians, at the slightest hint of lack of moral ascendancy, they can demonstrate. They can go to Edsa Shrine, Luneta, Makati... The Armed Forces cannot do that. The Armed Forces is balancing; it's the stabilizing element in society. It cannot be swayed by the moods of this or that side.

There are contending forces and the Armed Forces is supposed to stabilize it.

At what point should you intervene? At what point should you make that decision which was done on Jan. 19? It is when you see that the situation has become irreversible. It has developed a life of its own; it's feeding on itself. The demonstration is getting bigger and bigger, and the government is not really going to give in. You have a very, very volatile situation. Anything can happen. If you allowed it to continue for another two weeks, the economy could not take it anymore. The exchange rate would go down perhaps to P60-65 [against the dollar]. We were already at P54-55. The people were on the verge of violence. The students were demonstrating and were not going to school anymore. People were threatening civil disobedience and government was stonewalling it.

To us, when we were deciding this thing, we said, "It's a matter of time, this government will give way. It's a matter of when and how." What are the prospects? You'll have violence, bloodshed, the military divided and fighting each other... How long will it last? To us in the Armed Forces we don't want the military divided, that's very important. We had seen the 1987, 1989 coups and the soldiers were the ones who suffered. For what reason? To promote the interests of certain groups, certain people who want to be powerful, want to head this government. Cannot be. We don't want the Armed Forces divided and be used as tool of certain groups with vested interests.

Did you really ask for one million people at Edsa like the text messages said?

No. What we must emphasize here is that the Armed Forces and I did not plot against the government. The decision was made only the morning of Jan. 19.

Did you discuss your decision with your family?

No... You know, three of my sons work in Makati so they knew what was happening. Two work in the stock brokerage, one works with SGV.

No, they were not at Edsa. They told me what was happening. But we never discussed what I was going to do.

What about those military men who said you just beat them to the draw?

Everybody has his own story to tell. (Laughter) As I said, *wala naman kaming* agenda *dito*, *eh*. We didn't do this to power-grab, we didn't do this to have a military junta, we didn't do this to impose anything on this government. If they want the credit they can have it.

Who asked you to go to Edsa?

The reports were coming in that the situation was becoming very, very volatile, that the NPAs were coming in. They were going to come in and take advantage of the situation. There were reports coming in that the rightists were going to exploit the situation, the communists going to... And if you had just one explosion there at any time, there would be mayhem. One explosion would produce casualties and that would invite more demonstrations. The demonstrators were not going to stop, I tell you. That was my feeling. The more you try to stop them the bigger it will become. *'Yung* coalition of forces *noon mabigat na, eh*. They were all focused on it. Even the left was cooperating. "Let's just make this bigger and bigger..." After a while they had some modus vivendi. In the end the communists would take advantage of this because they wanted to put a revolutionary situation where there is chaos and they can take advantage.

There were talks that the mass number of people at Edsa would have been meaningless without the military supporting it. You turned the tide so to speak.

If you have people going against government and the outrage is genuine, deep-seated, widespread, it's only a

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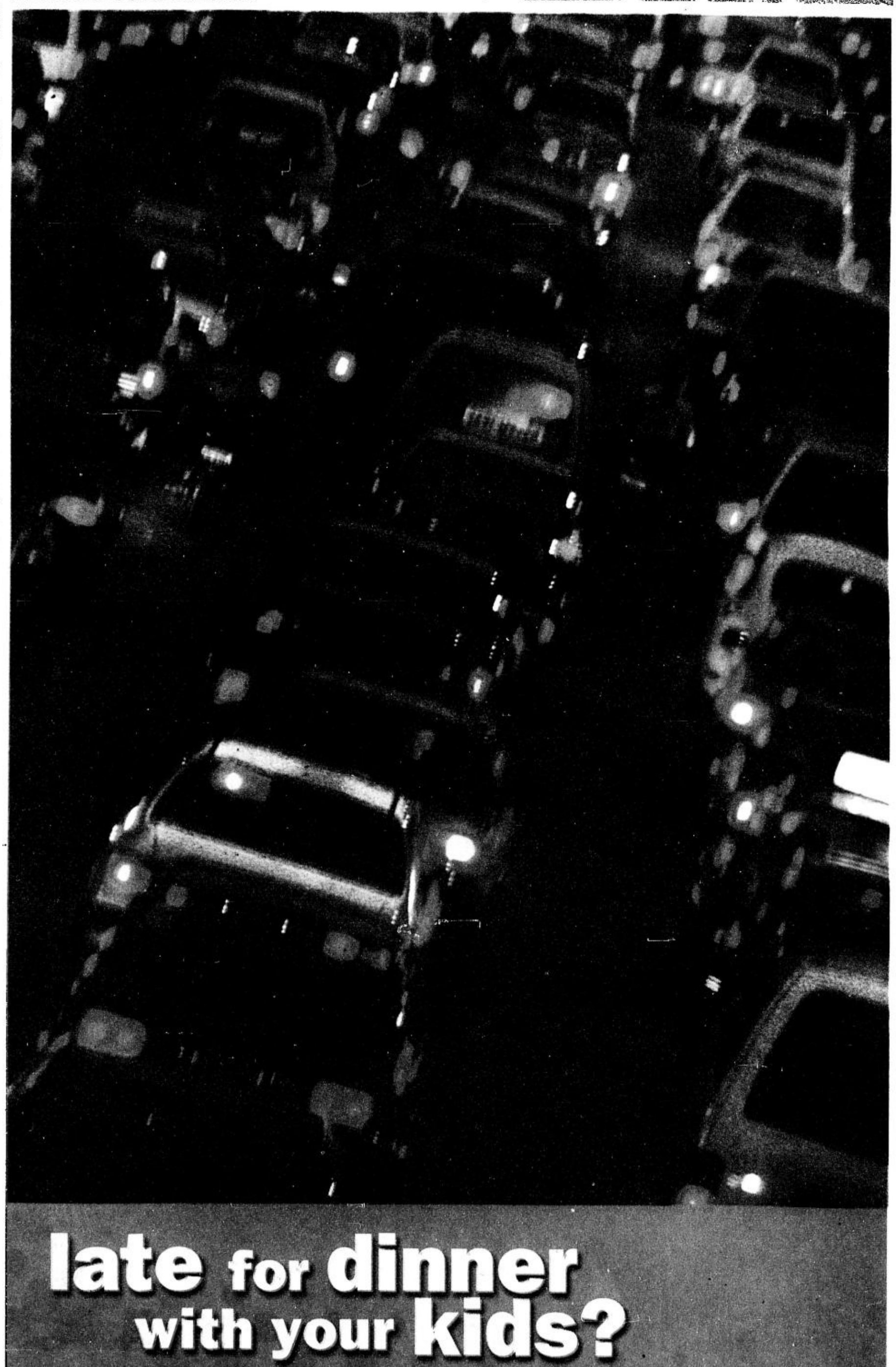
If you have people going against government and the outrage is genuine, deep-seated, widespread, it's only a matter of time before government falls



PHOTOS: ROGER MARGALLO

Touched by a three-star Angel

(From page D6)

matter of time government before falls.

Kung abutan ng eleksyon 'yan, dapa 'yan. Hindi inabutan ng eleksyon kaya gan'un nangyari. 'Yung military *natin may* limit *'yan. Nag-iisip din ang* military. We know the logic of the entire thing, that government exists for the people, and if the government no longer serves the people, what's the logic? So it cannot go on indefinitely. You cannot fool the military. *Nag-iisip din naman ang mga taong ito.* That's why I want to retire because these people will take my place. (Laughter)

When did you consult the defense secretary? Was it a mutual decision between the defense establishment and the military?

We (military officers) met 7:30 a.m. Friday. Then we decided, "Let's go 10:30." ... When we were coming out of the room, I said, "Gentlemen, I just want you to know that we have just committed mutiny." (Laughter)

What exactly was the decision?

To withdraw support.

Nothing was said about going to Edsa?

The first decision was to have the announcement in Aguinaldo because we are a military organization and we had to present it to... You go and call a conference and make a reenactment of the famous picture of us aligned.... *Di ba* you had that sometime in October or November? *May problema du'n, eh.* No. 1, why should you call for a press conference to announce something like that? You lose the element of surprise, and you expose yourself to a lot of risks. You call for a press conference at that time, who do you think will end up joining that press conference? They're not stupid. Why will you do that? Why will you expose yourself to unnecessary risk? The objective was to withdraw support and it should be finished immediately. If there is delay nobody will profit from it.

At 10:30 we made the decision. At 11:30 there was a call and I was being asked to report to Malacañang. Everybody was there, they were meeting. No more. I wasn't even sure if we were found out already because we had made the decision and we were moving already. You're being asked to go to Malacañang, why will you go there?

Our timing was, we would have the board of generals meet at 1:30, then we would go to the safe house in Corinthian to meet the vice president at 2 p.m., then proceed to Edsa at 3 p.m.

Because of the telephone call, we said we would accelerate it. The phone call happened at about 11:30 so *baka na*-discover *na kami kaya ako pinapatawag sa* Malacañang. Immediately we went to Corinthian. The vice president arrived at about 12:30 and we met.

What were your thoughts when the Estradas were leaving Malacañang?

There was this special thing between the President (Estrada) and myself. He liked me, he trusted me, and that made it very, very difficult to withdraw support from him. It's the most difficult thing you can do to the man. This had been my concern and what had been bothering me all the time this was happening. *Di ba nu'ng nag-*press conference after the withdrawal of support, I said, "The President is a good president." *Wala namang* script *'yun, eh.* I didn't go there with a prepared script. It was just something that had to be done. I really felt bad about doing this to the former President. And my concern was his safety... *'Yung* Angara account... he requested to be allowed to stay there for five [more] days so I said, "Okay, we'll secure you there for five days." That was my commitment. But that did not happen because Friday happened and then Saturday the vice president was to take her oath. After the oath taking, I said I was going to Malacañang to see him off.

This was the first time you were going to see him since you made the decision?

I called him up before going to Edsa. I saw him *para mag-usap kami para malaman niya na* nothing personal. *Importante 'yun, di ba?* You offended the man, you go and see him. And then, so he can say what he wants to say..

Did he blame you?

According to Boy Abunda, "Private Conversations"... (Laughter)

When you went to meet with the vice president, had you consulted with Secretary Mercado?

No. When we went to Corinthian, (Col.) Macky (Maclang) was at the operation center monitoring everything there. AI (Gen. Dagudag) was with me. I was told the President, Fred Lim, Mercado, Calimlim, Lacson, the lawyers were in Malacañang ... When I called up the President and I told him, scramble *na sa* Malacañang. *'Yun ang* famous words *ni* Angara, "*Seryoso na 'to, nag-*defect *na si* General Reyes!" (Laughs) *Di ba 'yun ang* title *ng* INQUIRER? They started calling some generals. The generals *naman, tawag sila sa* operation center, *tawag sila sa akin* asking what they were going to do because they were being called to Malacañang. I told them, "Stay put, don't report to Malacañang." The military was solid, *walang problema.* That's the beauty of it. You could imagine what would have happened if a whole brigade sided with the other side. *Baka ma-*prolong *pa.* One side or the other would end up in heaps.

How did you feel that some retired generals were against the extension of your tenure as chief of staff?

Oh, everybody is entitled to his own opinion. (Ponders) No problem, I am retiring... I could have stayed in this job until July 2002..

You have other career options I suppose. What do you plan to do after retiring? What does retiring mean to you?

Retire from military service, not retire from life. (Laughs)

Any political plans?

Right now, I don't see myself wanting to sell myself to anybody. *Kasi 'pag pulitiko ka, pupunta ka d'yan, paganu'n-ganu'n* (Waves). (Laughter) *Maski na hindi mo kursunada 'yung tao!*

On TV we saw tanks going inside Malacañang. Was that for his [Erap's] protection?

General Dagudag: That was the PSG. They have their own. Naka-deploy sila doon.

Clear *ito, ha, 'yung aming* withdrawal of support didn't include PSG. PSG is supposed to remain there and secure the President. That's their job.

You didn't call PSG?

No! We should not! They have to secure the outgoing President. We didn't want the mob lynching the former President. That would create trouble.

Is the same PSG protecting GMA now?

The head is different. A lot of the people there are the same.

Is that safe?

These people are professionals. *Ako,* is it safe that I am chief of staff of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo? Professional *naman ako, eh!*

But they are human, too.

But we are professionals, too. It depends on what dominates, *eh.*

They say the military was good to Erap because he pampered the military...

Hindi naman pampering. The military appreciates generosity but you cannot buy its loyalty. Loyalty cannot be bought; it should not be bought. *Kung* pampering, *anong mangyayari sa* military *natin?* To me, in my perception, he really cared about the soldiers. He wasn't buying us off. And the same can be said of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. *Kasi kapag binibili mo 'yan, mahahalata mo naman 'yan, eh.*

Do you see any coup in the offing?

No. Creation of media *'yan.* (Laughter) *Gaya ng* headline *nyo kanina,* "Coup talk make Wong walk." (Emphatic) That's not true! And it's headline in your newspaper! If you had asked me then I would have told you the truth.

What's the truth?

You're asking now after the headline.

To correct the mistake.

I doubt it. You'll rectify on page 10, bottom right, (Laughter) one-column errata together with the obituaries. (Laughter)-It was Wong against the Marines and not Wong against Ladia. It is individual against the institution. And like I said, if it's individual against institution, the institution must prevail.

***Sabi nila* the Marines should be taken care of because they were crucial when Gringo led a coup...**

We have a different Armed Forces now.

That was only 10 years ago.

Ten years ago is a lot of time in the Armed Forces. You could, if you handle it properly, change the attitude, etc., etc. in two years.

***Kumusta ang* budget *ng* military, sir?**

Our budget had been increasing at the approximate level of the inflation rate. As is true with the national budget.

Do you think it's wise for GMA to be initiating peace talks again with the MILF and to stop military activities in the south? Would that negate your gains?

In the military, we don't make policy, we implement policy. We don't make policy, much less criticize policy. Making policy is the job of the administration. You cannot have a military criticizing policy. *Kaya sila* elected because they are whose judgment the people trust. *Kaya natin in-*elect *'yan,* initially as vice president then installed by People Power. *Napakarami,* 75 million clowns in the country, and 10 are in this room (Laughter). But somebody has got to make a decision on this thing and that thing. So we allow her to make the decision. After that, particularly the Armed Forces, we are expected to follow. That's our job. You don't expect a chief of staff or senior officer to express in public or in print his disagreement with policy. Cannot be.

How was Orly Mercado as a civilian secretary of national defense?

Okay. Good. Very good.

Did he have an appreciation of the military mind...?

Yeah.

But he had some run-through with some military officers.

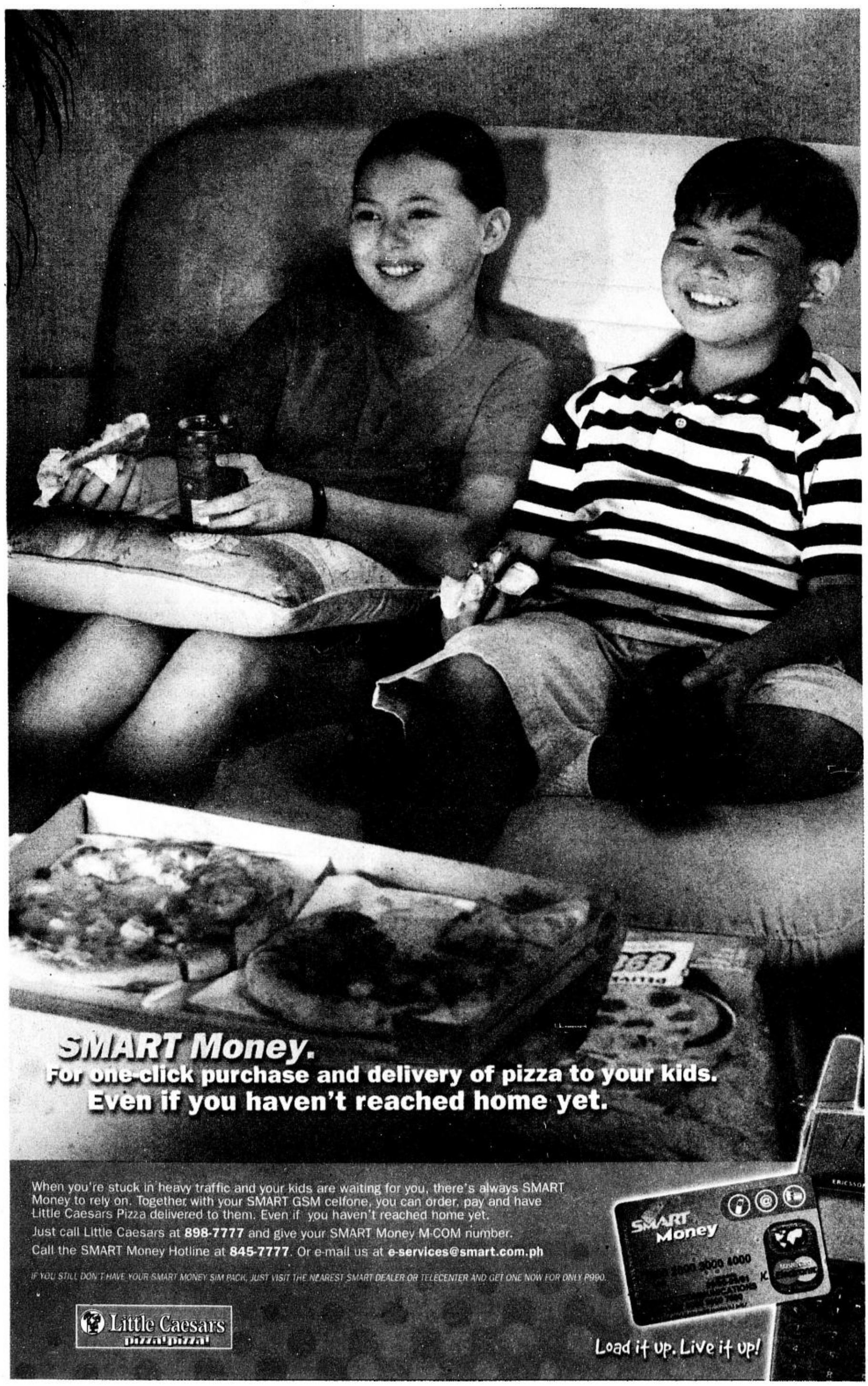
Exaggerated.

In what state are you going to leave the Armed Forces?

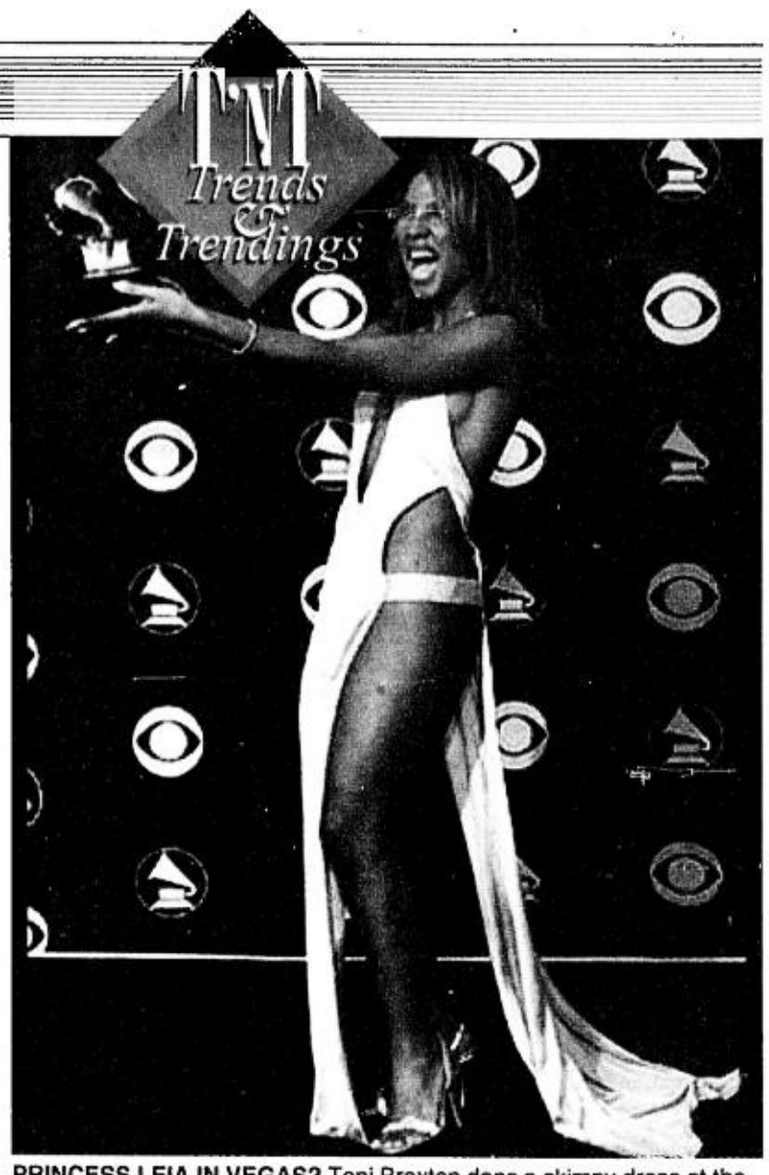
Better than when I came in, I hope.

What's do you think is your legacy?

When we had the campaign against the MILF, the Abu Sayyaf last year, I thought that would have been the legacy... I thought that would have been a good-enough legacy.



Black-and-white look, Mareng Winnie dreams of becoming garbage czar, Toni Braxton sizzles in Grammy Awards



PRINCESS LEIA IN VEGAS? Toni Braxton dons a skimpy dress at the Grammy's.

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-HAVE look, color and combination—black and white. Featured in most of the top designers' Spring/Summer 2001 collection is the elegant combination of black and white. It's a take on the fusion of colors that dominated last year's fashion scene.

This time, designers are looking for something that's bold, failsafe and a classic. **Tom Ford**'s debut collection for YSL showed tuxedos and white dresses in black and white. **Ralph Lauren's** devoted a whole ad campaign on such combination with hot actress/muse **Penelope Cruz** as model. Other brands include Armani, Costume Nacional, Lawrence Steele and Chanel.

What is also good about this look is you can accessorize it to the hilt with pearls or bright red!

Parles-vous français? I have always been jealous of people who can speak more than three languages. I hate it when they can converse with foreigners so well or when on vacation they can order a meal, buy something or befriend someone.

My love for foreign languages stemmed from the time I went on a vacation with my grandparents in Baguio. My grandma was a fussy person, so whenever I used her bathroom, I would be careful not to make her angry by the stench I left behind. Since there were no scented candles then, I used the bottle that read "eau de toilette" and sprayed it all over the toilet and bedroom. What I forgot to read was the Christian Dior part. Nevertheless she still got angry since I wasted almost half the bottle.

In college, I had to learn French and German (at the same time) at Les Roches. Learning a new language after 20 was not easy or fun. So after three years of taking up the languages, I can speak a little French (read: barely) and none of German (which I flunked).

The German language is the hardest and worst-sounding language I ever heard (sorry). It is so unromantic, rough and angry-sounding. When I had to speak in class, I would see Hitler.

10 THINGS I'D LIKE TO DO: Mareng Winnie Monsod

On the other hand, everyone falls in love with the way the French speak (if only their attitude was as lovable). It is so romantic that even with **Gerard Depardieu**, despite his crooked nose and girth size, you'll be entranced.

Recently I met some French nationals while dining at Raj (hip Indian restaurant in Malate). Being a bit tipsy (read: bolder), I tried to converse with them with the little French I know. My accent was horrible. My tongue was exhausted and my brains fried in trying to get the right accent. So I gave up.

When I was studying in Switzerland, I was able to get by but had so many pitfalls. Like the first time I walked inside a grocery and hit this 90-year-old lady with my shopping cart. While she was madly looking at me, I was thinking of how to say "I'm sorry" in French. Instead I said, "Oops... merci." And she was not quite happy.

Or the time I was at Charles de Gaulle airport and ordering a sandwich. I was explaining to the waiter the kind I wanted: with ham and cheese and pressed in a griddle. We did not understand each other because I did not know what I was saying. Then I saw a picture that said, "Croque monsieur." I hit my head with my hand, realizing that the waiters at Floating Island (in Makati Med) would know that one.

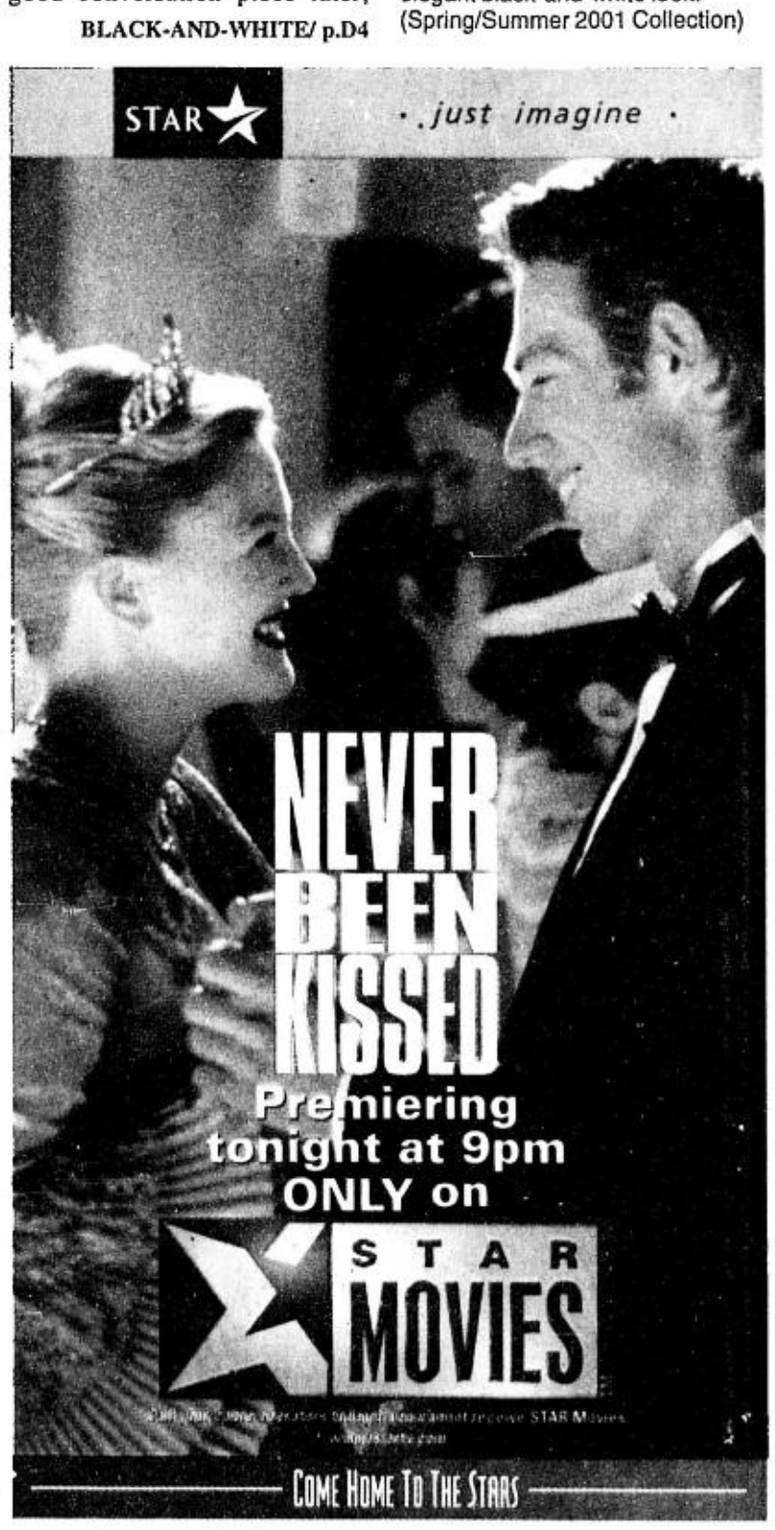
Which led me to speaking Spanish. Pinoys have a love-hate relationship with anything Spanish. They think of 300 years of friar rule and the martyrdom of **Cesar Montano**, I mean, Rizal. But some brown-skinned folks are enamored by the language. I know a few people who, because they have Spanish-sounding last names and are fair- skinned, have tried to pass themselves off as Spanish. (Read: Hello!)

My weird experience in speaking Spanish was when I was ordering tea in a restaurant and I said, "*Tsaa*." Since it did sound a bit Spanish, the waiter just gave me a funny look.

For whatever it is, speaking a different language is great, you just have to have a lot of passion, guts and start early! But here's a tip whenever you go through a pitfall: Treat it as a unique experience for it might make a good conversation piece later,

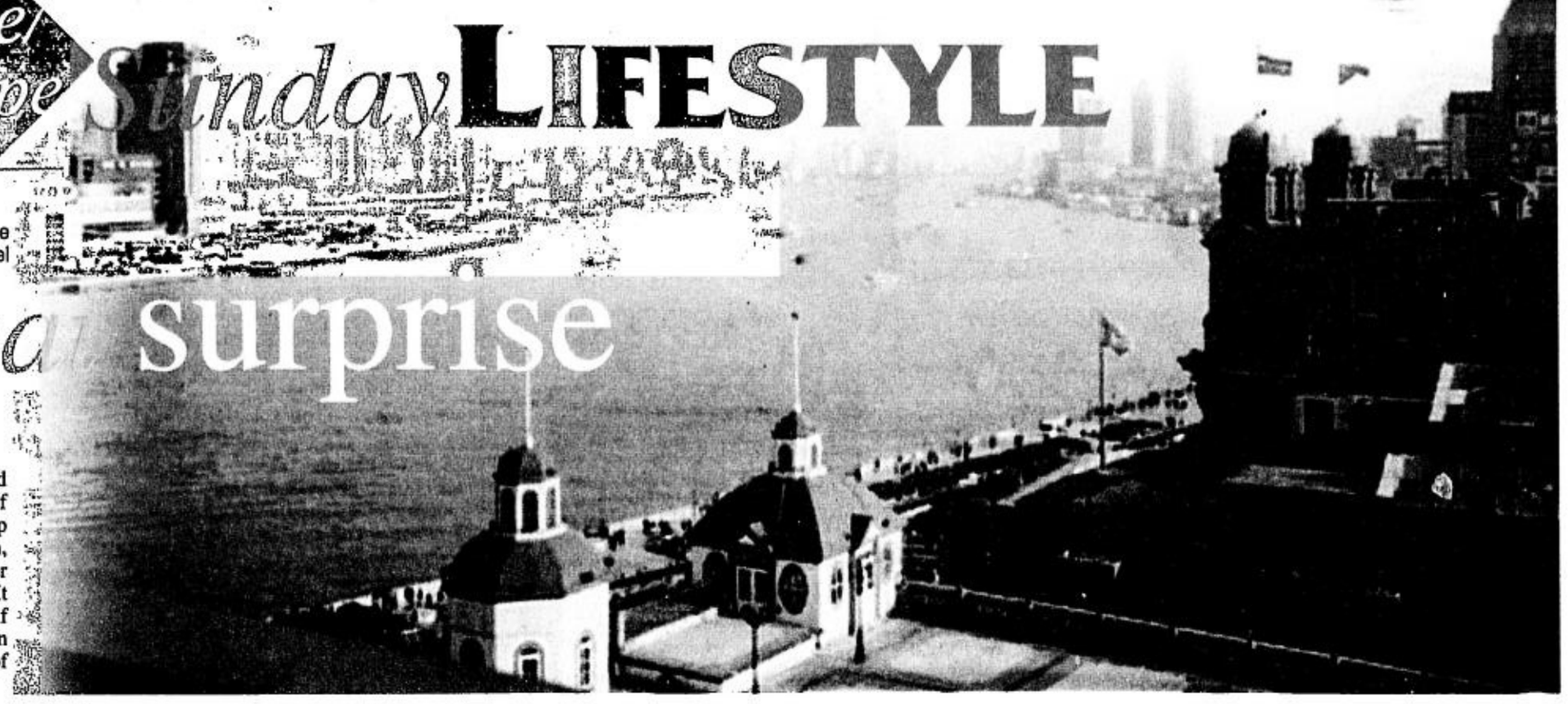
BLACK-AND-WHITE/ p.D4

MUST-HAVE look, color and combination—black and white. This is Gucci's take on the stylishly elegant black-and-white look. (Spring/Summer 2001 Collection)



Escapes

Sunday LIFESTYLE



SHANGHAI looking like Europe from the top floor of the Peace Hotel

Shanghai surprise

BY KITTY GO

AT THE CHIC restaurant M on the Bund (7 Fl, 5 The Bund on the corner of Guandong Lu), one of Li Ka Shing's top executives at the Chinese website Tom.com, told me that Shanghai could easily do better than Hong Kong in the next five to 10 years. It would have been hard for me to believe this if not for a day's sightseeing (and not to mention eating) where I was sold on the bright future of this fabled (yet polluted) city.

In the '20s, there were two other important cities aside from New York. One was Buenos Aires and the other, Shanghai. There was a romance about Shanghai that made me block off the noise and pollution, not to mention the sight of some of the ugliest modern buildings I had ever seen in my life. Probably because of the books I had read and the stories I had heard from old Chinese relatives, the idea of Shanghai in its heyday from the '20s to the '40s is imbedded in my imagination. Now, the city has captured my heart.

Maybe I was so taken with Shanghai because I was only there for a weekend; not long enough to really see what it is like to live there. Unlike Rome, which I visited for 10 days and which I do not intend to visit again (and that puts me in the minority) unless threatened at knife point (and that makes me the only one), I intend to visit Shanghai again very soon. If you want to witness the spirit of Shanghai, take a walk down the area called the Bund (pronounced boont).

The Bund is a row of historic buildings facing the river. These imposing buildings house major institutions like Citibank, HSBC, AIG and most of their lobbies are open to the public for viewing during business hours. On one side of the street, the Bund looks like any major European street. However, upon gazing across the way, toward the river, you will see an entire panorama of modern buildings, including some that look like space ships and gift boxes, The Bund is where history lives together with modernity and it is what Shanghai is all about. Shanghai is very much like a woman of style who wears modern designer clothes yet carries her grandmother's purse. And the total look is just fab!

Social whirl

The Peace Hotel, formerly known as the Cathay Hotel, is also on the Bund. Built in 1929, this 12-story hotel is known for its jazz bar and elegant 1930s Chinese interiors. The hotel has played host to the Clintons, Henry Kissinger and George Bush Sr. The hotel was the center of the Shanghai social whirl before communism. Thus it earned its reputation as the "No. 1 mansion in the Far East."

Even more stunning is the luxurious Art Deco Grosvenor House in the Jin Jiang Hotel complex on 59 Mao Ming Road South, in the heart of the French Quarter.

SHANGHAI/ p.E4

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The greatest stories ever told

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

SISTER Anselm, my second grade teacher, was the world's greatest storyteller! She liked to tell stories and we loved to listen to them. We always preferred it when she told us stories instead of teaching us fractions. She could keep us enthralled for hours with her stories and they always had a lesson that we never forgot. Sister Anselm didn't have an education degree, but she was a Ph.D. in human nature. She was very young—perhaps only in her 20s when she taught us—but she had a world of experience of the heart! She knew what little second graders were all about!

Jed's Valentine

Valentine's Day this year reminded me of another of Sister Anselm's stories. It was a story about a little boy named Jed. Jed was a very shy and quiet boy. He didn't have any friends in school and he was always by himself. When the other children laughed and joked together, Jed was always left out. (A lot of Sister Anselm's second graders could identify with Jed, because second graders can be very exclusive sometimes and the *barkada* is very important to them. Not to belong to a *barkada* in the second grade was almost as bad as flunking arithmetic!)

Jed's mother kept wishing that his classmates would be more open to Jed and let him into their group. But they never seemed to pay attention to Jed. He was always alone. He had no friends at all in his class.

One day at the beginning of February, Jed came home from school and told his mother he wanted to make a Valentine for every one of his classmates. "I wish he wouldn't do that," his mother thought to herself. "His classmates never include him in anything and he is only going to be very disappointed when he makes a Valentine for each one of them and doesn't get even one Valentine himself."

Nevertheless, she decided she would go along with her son and his desire to make a Valentine for everyone in class. She bought some paper and some glue and crayons, and for two weeks, night after night, Jed painstakingly made 36 Valentines—one for each of his classmates and a special one for his teacher, who tnought Jed wasn't too smart and never paid much attention to him.

Valentine's Day came and Jed was very excited as he started out for school that morning—all by himself, as usual. That afternoon, Jed's mother prepared a special *merienda* for Jed, because she thought he would be very disappointed that he had not received any Valentines in school.

Around three o'clock she looked out the window and saw the children coming home from school. They were all laughing and having the greatest time in the world, talking about the Valentines they had received. But, as always, there was Jed in the rear, all by himself and all alone. But he was walking faster than usual. His hands were empty. Obviously Jed hadn't received any Valentines at all. Jed's mother fully expected him to burst into tears as soon as he got inside the house.

She choked back her own tears and as soon as Jed came in, she said, "I've got a special *merienda* for you today, Jed, because it is Valentine's Day, and you are my special Valentine, son!" But Jed didn't even hear her at all. He marched right by her and his face was all aglow and full of smiles. All he could say over and over was: "Not one, Mommy. Not one. I didn't forget a single one of my classmates! I gave everyone of them a Valentine!"

"That's what Valentine's Day is really all about," Sister Anselm said. "To give and not to receive. To be nice to your classmates, even if they are not nice to you. To keep on loving even if no one loves you in return." Sister Anselm's story about Jed still makes sense to me 60 years later!

Charlie, Snoopy and Lucy

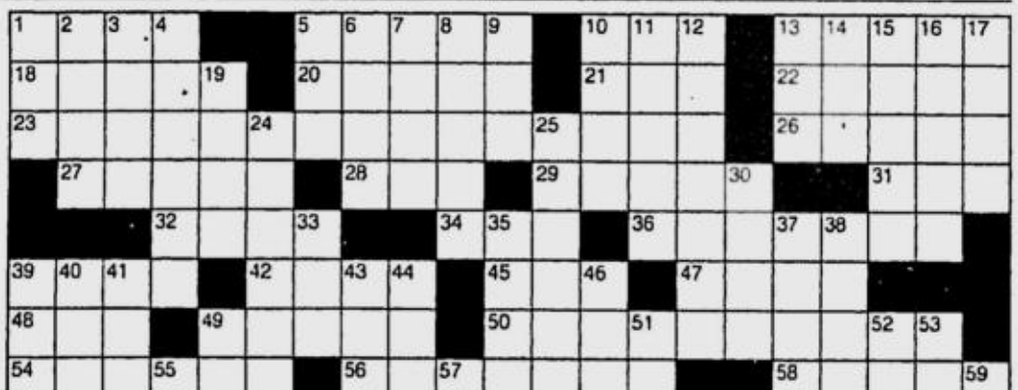
We didn't have Charlie Brown and Snoopy and the ever-realistic Lucy in those days in the second grade. But Sister Anselm would have enjoyed Charlie Brown very much, because Charlie Brown and Lucy, I think, are second graders, just as we were in those days.

One of my favorite Charlie Brown cartoons is the one where Charlie Brown (the born loser) holds out his hands before his little friend Lucy and says in eloquent accents: "These are the hands, Lucy, that will accomplish great things! They will

THE GREATEST/ p.E7

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

FINISH LINE



ACROSS

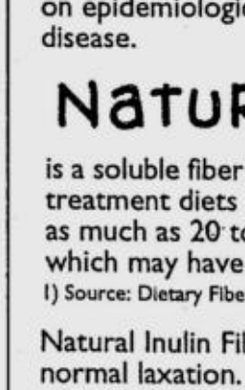
1 Thieves
5 Dress down
10 Accomplished
13 English explorer
18 French spa
20 Home on high
21 A mean Amin
22 "Pygmalion" role
23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret
26 On the up and up
27 Director Sergio
28 Grazing ground
29 Overact
31 Have a mortgage
32 Become engaged?
34 EMT's skill
36 "La Boheme" girl
39 Depravity
42 Heavy metal instrument?
45 Mellow
47 Rajasthani rhythm
48 Coach Parseghian
49 Kayak commander
50 Part 2 of remark
54 Verbal explosion
56 Pittsburgh player
58 Skirt feature
60 Tangle
61 "May I interrupt?"
62 Vision
65 Cookbook phrase
66 Impressive lobby
68 Catches cod
71 Runner Sebastian
72 Karras or Haley
73 Part 3 of remark
77 Suggestive
80 — Na Na
81 Beloved
82 Type of aircraft
85 Maestro de Waart
86 Fusillade
88 Khartoum's river
90 Hopeless case
92 Jeeves or Passepartout
94 Focused
97 Watchful city?
98 Part 4 of remark
101 Perfect
103 One of the Marches
104 Anesthetize
105 Fitting
106 Manuscript enc.
107 Goofy Gomer
108 Field event
111 "— the fields we go . . ."
113 Ballet movement
115 Overwhelm
116 Recruit personnel
118 Good times
121 Sari site
124 Rent
127 End of remark
131 Party present
132 Myriads of moons
133 "Midnight at the —" ('74 hit)
134 "— Gay"
135 Fight site
136 Room for relaxing
137 Marine leader?
138 Hardware item

DOWN

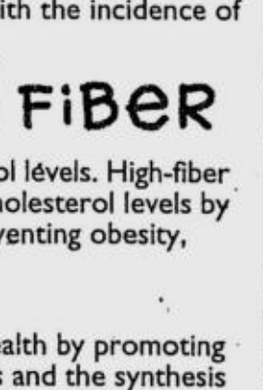
1 Sports official
2 Face shape
3 Ill temper
4 She knew how to get a head
5 Droop
6 Do overhead plastering
7 Sarah — Jewett
8 Pale purple
9 "— volente"
10 "Carpe —"
11 Turn of phrase
12 Bother
13 "Fantasia" frame
14 Fish-and-chips accompaniment
15 Chauvinist
16 Conductor Seiji
17 Yarn
19 Muse count
24 Snuggle up
25 "The Aeneid" author
30 Jacob's twin
33 Tint
35 "— Rider" ('85 film)
37 Neighbor of Libya
38 Kite part
39 Places to dye
40 One of "The Three Sisters"
41 Jeweler's weight
43 41st or 43rd President
44 Be there
46 Gets by, with "out"
49 Impromptu
51 Author Jong
52 Patricia of "Hud"
53 Wild wind
55 Deck out
57 Edit a text
59 Duty
61 Menotti title character
63 Have thirds and fourths?
64 Cure
67 — Minor
69 Peg for Palmer
70 Footballer Lynn
72 Option
74 Maritime abbr.
75 Turning point
76 Actor Bruce
77 Part of IRS
78 Eliot's "— Bede"
79 Fountain order
83 Foe
84 Party hearty
86 Walk like a rooster
87 Recruit-to-be
89 Helen of Troy's mom
91 Wrath
93 Cubist Rubik?
95 Warning
96 Tivoli's Villa d'—
97 Ancient tongue
99 Little devils
100 Bordered on
102 Kreskin's letters
107 Know-it-all
108 Vow
109 Throw forcefully
110 Resort lake
112 Bucolic
114 Memo start
115 — Romeo
117 Actress Sherilyn
119 "Yo!" at the library
120 Move a bit
122 "Blame — the Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)
123 Bill of Rights grp.
125 Every guy is one
126 Cy Young stat
128 Debtor's letters
129 Govt. agency
130 Beaver or beret

ANSWER ON PAGE E7

Lactum*
HELPS MAKE YOUR CHILD A 100% NOURISHED KID



INULIN
What's In It For Kids?



When one talks of fiber, does Inulin ring a bell?
Now, clinical studies are singling out this natural soluble fiber commonly found in vegetables and fruits such as leeks, onions, garlic, chicory, artichokes and bananas because of its varied nutritional properties ideal for kids.

For the last 20 years or so, the role of fiber in the diet has been accepted by numerous health organizations. Fiber has been proven to help in decreasing the risks of chronic diseases such as heart problems, colon cancer, diabetes and even obesity. Much of the link between fiber and disease is largely based on epidemiologic evidence associating low fiber intake with the incidence of disease.

NATURAL INULIN FIBER

is a soluble fiber that has been shown to lower cholesterol levels. High-fiber treatment diets have been successful in bringing down cholesterol levels by as much as 20 to 30%, and thus may prove useful in preventing obesity, which may have its roots in childhood hypertension.
1) Source: Dietary Fiber of Children:Bogalusa Heart Study 1995;96)

Natural Inulin Fiber is especially beneficial to digestive health by promoting normal laxation. By improving the absorption of minerals and the synthesis of vitamins, Natural Inulin Fiber plays an important role in the complete nourishment of children.
(2) (Source: Dietary Fiber; A Healthy Discussion)

Inulin, the next "in" thing in nutrition, is now easily accessible to moms and kids with new Lactum, now with Natural Inulin Fiber. The goodness of Inulin is now combined with the 100% nourishment found in Lactum. So moms, make sure your kids drink **Lactum** now with

Natural Inulin Fiber to help **100%** nourishment be **100%** absorbed.

18 BC, Baguio's coolest club

BARBIE'S CRADLE. Heating up the cool mountain breeze of Baguio.

Smart blooms at Baguio festival

SMART Zed went to Baguio recently to celebrate the Panagbenga ("in bloom") or Flower Festival.

While daytime Baguio was colorfully bedecked with blooms during the weeklong festival, nighttime was embellished with a different kind of flowering provided by Smart Zed, the first mobile portal linked to a cellular phone.

Bars in Baguio were packed when Smart raffled off fancy cellphones and gift packs to lucky bargoers, who were mostly from Manila. Customers, both young and old, gamely participated in the spicy games concocted by Smart Zed host Andrew Binero of SkyCable Baguio.

Participants were asked to say Smart Zed and Smart Money, and to spell them using their body to the delight of the cellphone-waving crowd. One particular bar, 18 BC, was so hyped up with the game that not a few joined in the fun to win a brand-new phone. Bars toured by Zed include the high-end Cellar, Gimbals, 18 BC and Citylights.

To mark the last two nights of the Panagbenga Festival, Smart brought in two of the most talented bands in the music scene, Passage and Barbie's Cradle, to perform separate concerts.

At Camp John Hay, Barbie's Cradle and its brand of alternative pop music had the audience at the palm of its hand. The eager crowd sang with lead vocals Barbie Almalbis. The fans, wet and ecstatic because of a downpour, were in awe of the dainty Almalbis, a Tori Amos sound-a-like.

On the last night of the festival, Session Road became a virtual Mardi Gras. The crowd danced all night long to the upbeat disco music of Passage, which sang part of their new album "Disco Project."

GROOVY KAT. Kat Agarrado of Passage doing the moves

WILD, WILD ZED. Whoever said this nice little lady didn't have it?

CROONING BARBIE. Singing the blues at the Camp.

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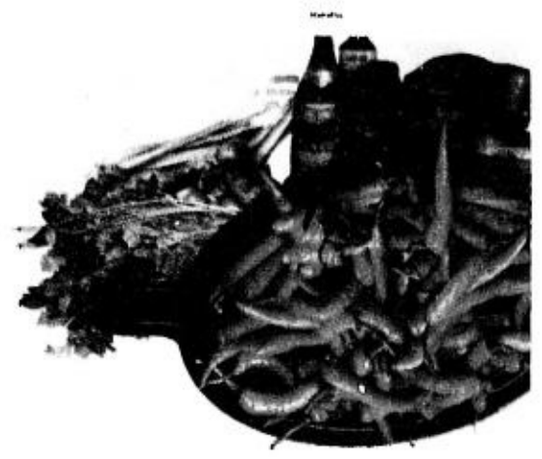
February 28 - March 31



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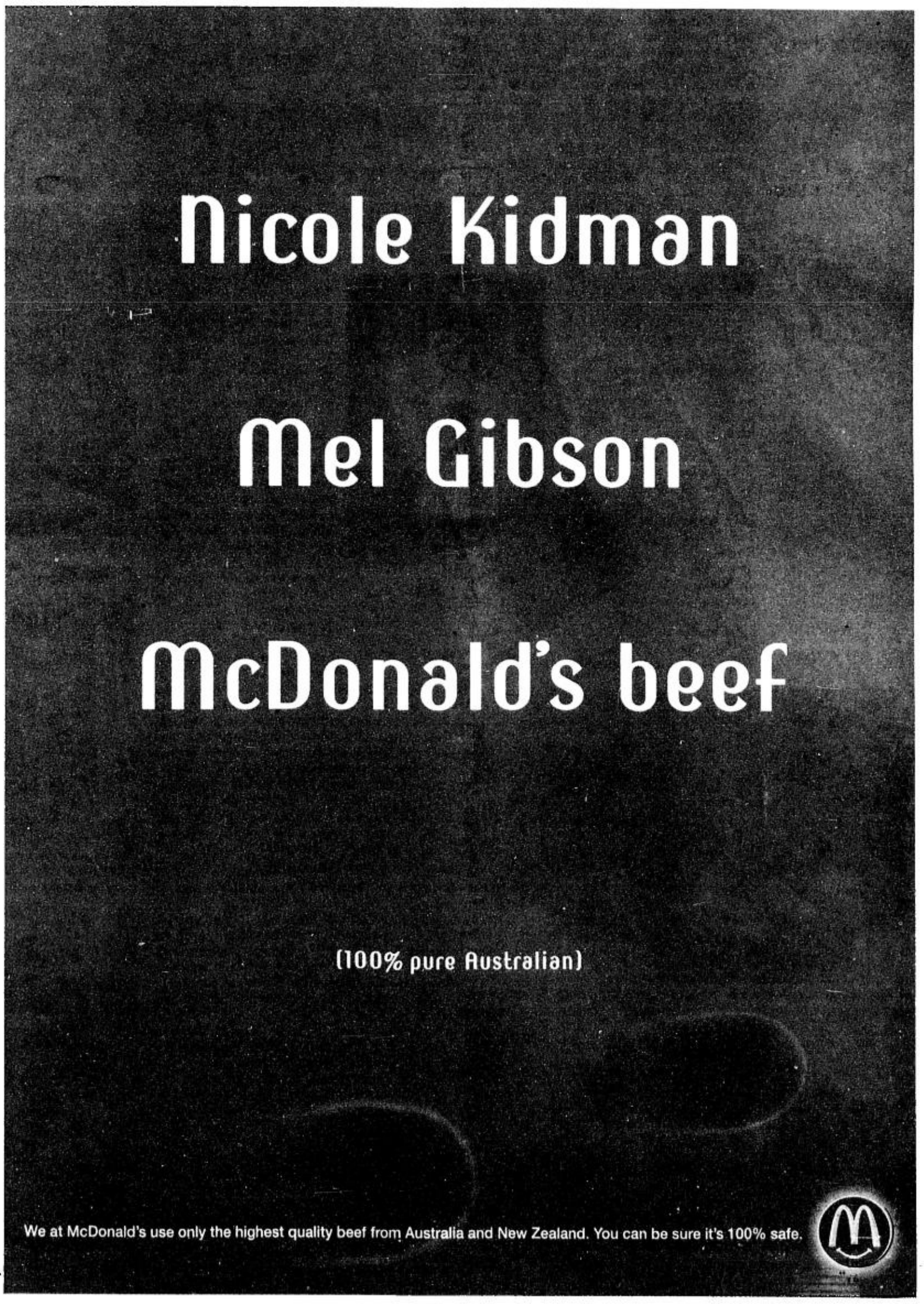
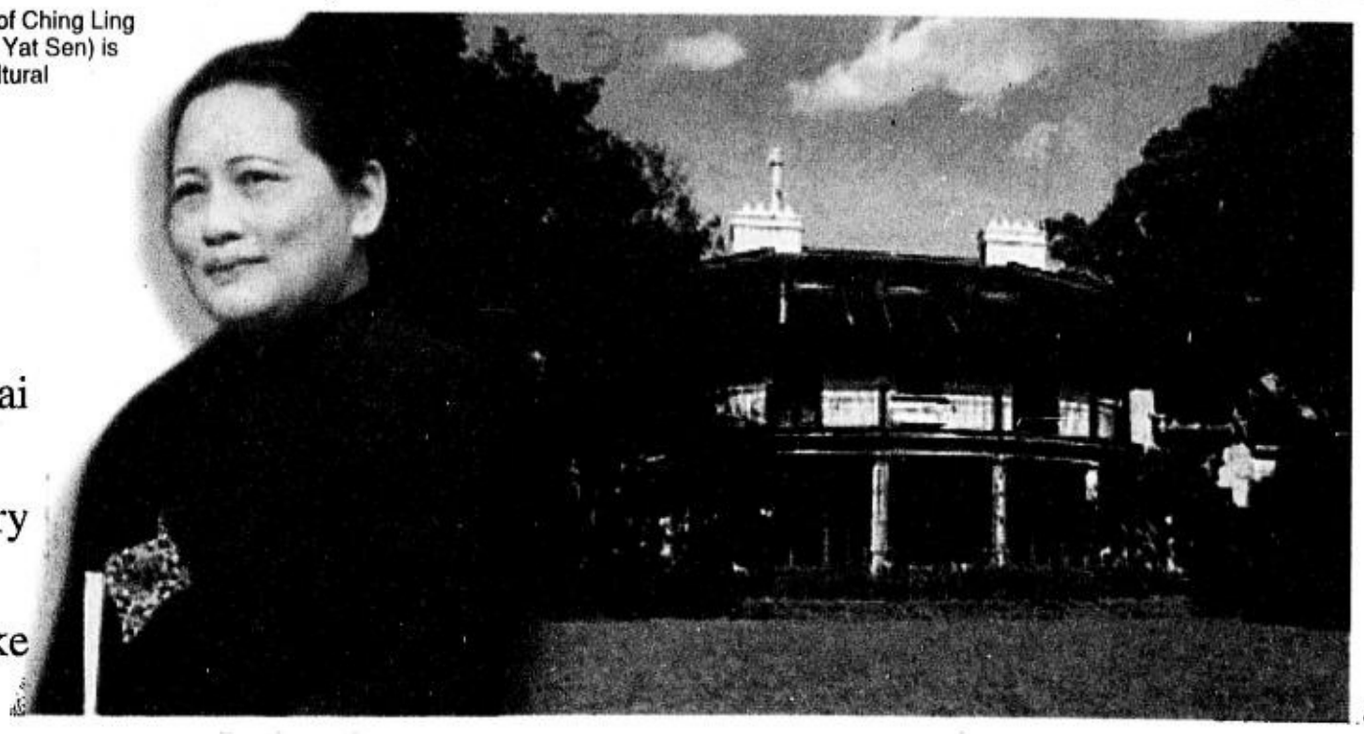
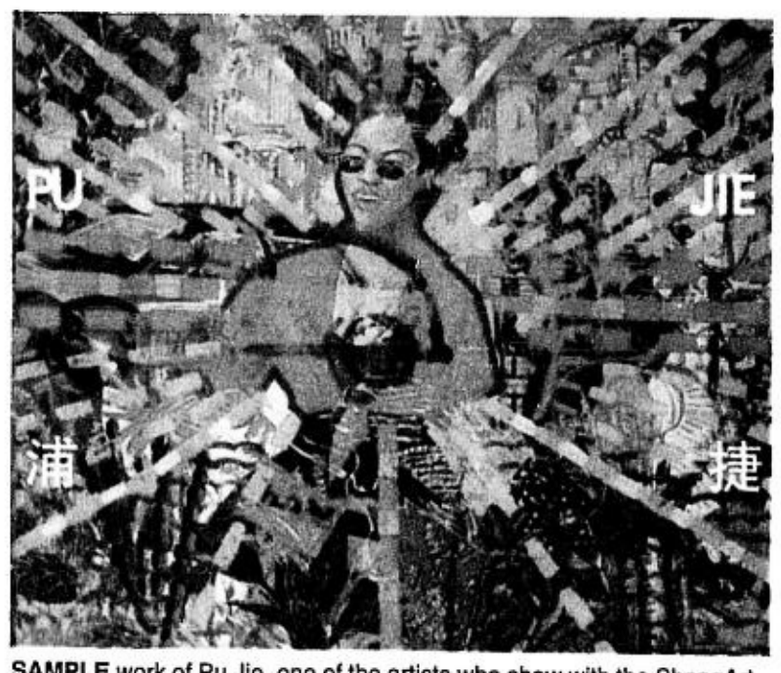




THE RESIDENCE of Ching Ling Soong (wife of Sun Yat Sen) is now a Shanghai cultural landmark.



SAMPLE work of Pu Jie, one of the artists who show with the ShangArt gallery

Shanghai is very much like a woman of style who wears modern designer clothes yet carries her grandmother's purse. And the total look is just fab!

Shanghai surprise

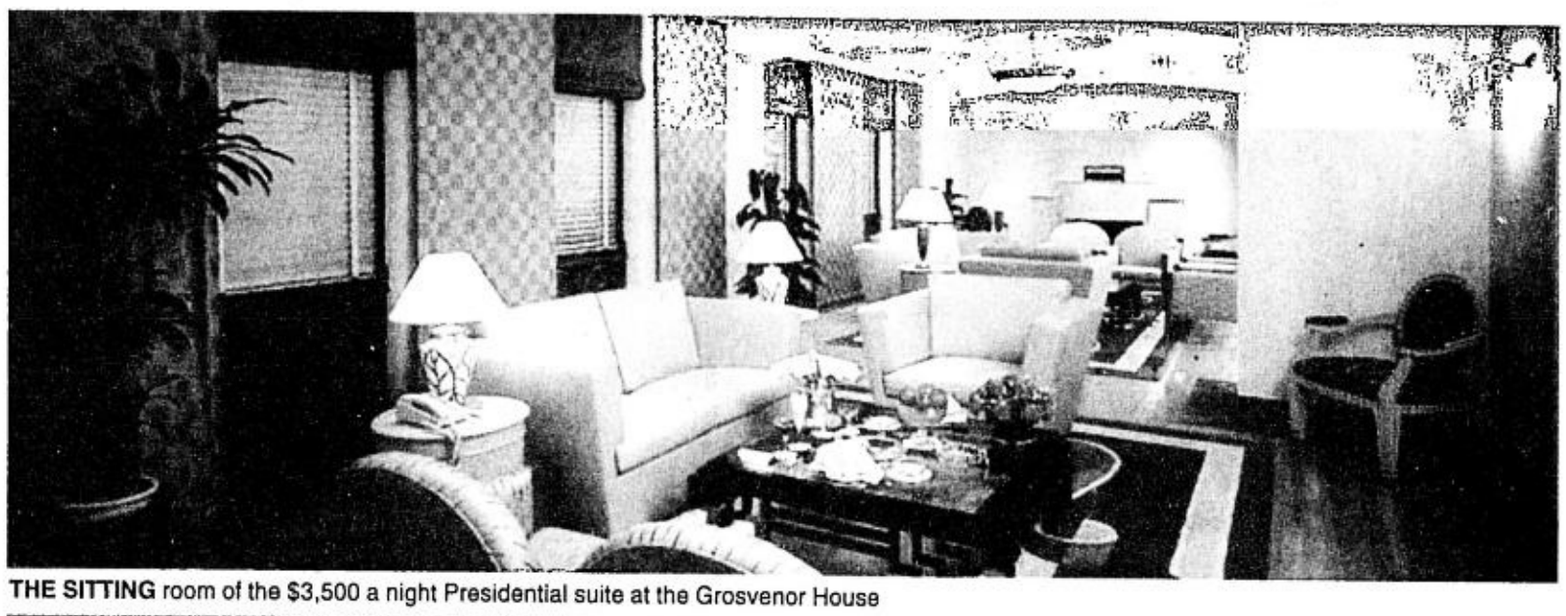
DILDOS as old as dinosaurs at the Chinese sex museum

(From page E1)

For over 60 years, Grosvenor house has welcomed over 300 members of royalty and heads of state such as the King of Spain, the Queen of Denmark, François Mitterand and Georges Pompidou, Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon, Margaret Thatcher, Helmut Kohl and Lee Kuan Yew. There are 26 suites including the palatial $3,500 a night, five-bedroom Presidential Suite.

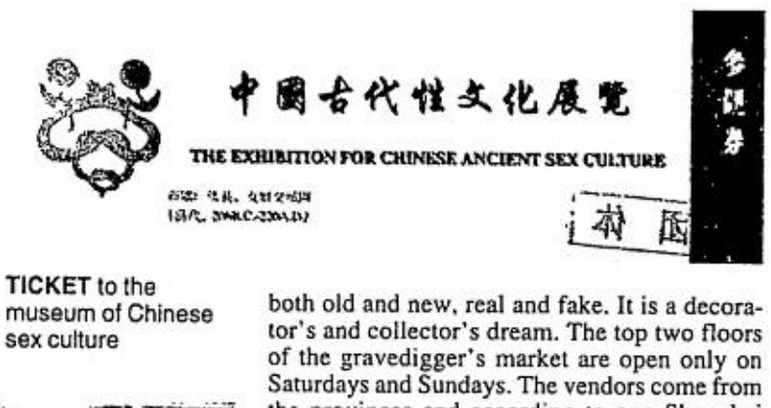
All around Shanghai you will find history and modernity living together. Like the Bund, Fuxing Park, on the corner of Si Nan Road, also epitomizes the Shanghai spirit. In the park itself you will see Shanghainese *masa* (very stylish, I have to say) fishing, playing cards and mahjong, or just strolling. Meanwhile, in a corner of this park is Lan Kwai Fong at Park 97 (2 Gao Lan Road, Fuxing Park, www.LKFgroup.com), a small development of Lan Kwai Fong restaurants consisting of Baci, Tokio Joe and California Club. This is where fashionable Shanghai comes to party. You will wonder whether you are truly in communist China as the crowd is full of stylish women and cute guys downing Moet Chandon throughout the day, into the night and onto the next morning. Literally a few steps from Park 97 is Shang Art (2A Gao Lan Road, www. shangart.com), where you can find stunning work from the best of China's contemporary artists.

Since a large part of Shanghai's charm is its history, a visit to Soong Ching Ling's residence on 1843 Huai Hai Road (M) will give you an idea of the glory days of this very cosmopolitan city. Soong Ching Ling belonged to the family that owned the bank of China, one of the most illustrious Chinese families of all time. The Soongs were a powerful business and political family and one of the first Chinese families to educate their children in America. Ching Ling went on to marry Sun Yat Sen and her older sister Mei Ling married Chiang Kai Shek. Ching Ling moved into this house in 1948 and in 1981, the house was designated as a cultural landmark.



THE SITTING room of the $3,500 a night Presidential suite at the Grosvenor House

M on the Bund, the chic Shanghai sister of Hong Kong's M on the Fringe for famous artists, intellectuals and opera singers.



TICKET to the museum of Chinese sex culture

Food and sex

If you want to savor local food in a place of history, the Mei Long Zhen restaurant on 1081 Naijing Road (W) serves not only the best Sichuan cuisine but has the most elegant and palatial Chinese décor. In its heyday, this 60-year-old institution was the restaurant of choice for famous artists, intellectuals and opera singers.

HONG Kong's popular Lan Kwai Fong comes to Shanghai in Park 97.

By far, the most remarkable dining experience in Shanghai is Building No. 4 in the Rui Jin Hotel on 118 Rui Jin 2 Road. Off the beaten track, but totally worth every minute of travel, Building No. 4, now known as Face, echoes the glamour of Shanghai in its heyday. This red brick and stone mansion is set on 20 acres of gardens and brings back the memory of old Shanghai. The mansion has a bar called Face on the ground floor and an adjoining tent-like room called Hazara, where they serve Indian food. Upstairs is the Thai restaurant Lan Na Thai where you can sit in the terrace in a romantic setting at dinner or look out into the vast gardens at lunch.

The city of Shanghai may be rich in history and culture, but little do you know that sex also finds its history here. Nowhere is the sex act chronicled with such detail in art and history as at the Exhibition for Chinese Ancient Sex Culture (8Fl, 479 Nanjing Dong Road). The sex museum illustrates everything from prehistoric animal sex to fetishes and homosexuality. I've been to many a weird museum but it was only in this one that I saw the mind-boggling figurine of—and I quote—"a monk receiving oral sex from a duck." This piece of work was carved from no less than jade!

THE TERRACE at Grosvenor House

SHANGHAI'S answer to *jueteng*: Mahjong and card games in Fuxing Park

YE Olde Manse: Building 4 on the 20 acre Ruijin compound, now known as Face

Shopping

A trip to Shanghai is not complete without shopping. Sure you can visit Lane Crawford, Ferre and Louis Vuitton. Or if you visit in March, a shopping center called Plaza 66 on Najing Xi Street will be open for business with Piaget, Gucci and Prada. However, if you love bargains and antiques (both real and fake) then there are two fabulous markets you should not miss!

On the corner of Tong Tai and Zizhong Streets is a row of stalls that is a delight to anyone looking for chinoiserie, beads, jewelry, ceramics and even old clocks. It is interesting to note that there are a few old English porcelain pieces, some in good condition, at prices way below those of Portobello Road in London. The gem of all markets is the gravedigger's building in the Yu Yuan Market, across from the tourist and shopping center of the same name, on Fang Bang Street. The gravedigger's market is six floors of products from all over China, India, Tibet and South East Asia. Jade, coral, amber, ceramics, furniture, wood products, religious figures (Buddha heads galore!), lacquer, textile—you name it, they've got it both old and new, real and fake. It is a decorator's and collector's dream. The top two floors of the gravedigger's market are open only on Saturdays and Sundays. The vendors come from the provinces and according to one Shanghai resident, "I come every week and there was never a time I came here and didn't buy anything." The best time to get first pick on goods is Saturday morning but the best time for bargains is around 3 p.m. on Sunday when the vendors are packing up.

They key to bargaining in these Shanghai markets is to go down to 10 percent of the asking price then walk away. Sometimes they come after you; 90 percent of the time, you'll get whatever you want for 25-50 percent of the asking price. Unless you are an antiques expert, simply assume everything in these markets are fake. Although I must say I did get an old jade and gold hairpin from the '30s that I strongly feel is real.

A strange sight in Shanghai is their taxis where the drivers are encased in Plexiglas. This must be the Shanghainese answer to the glass that separates New York and London cab drivers from their passengers. A final piece of advice: Shanghai cab drivers still will try to pull a fast one on you so ask for a receipt or "*fa piao*." On it you will find the car number and the company's phone number. You can call to complain if you've been overcharged or if the driver was rude. One of my friends did so and got her money back.

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

ANTIQUES, beads, porcelain and every conceivable old object can be found and bargained for at the Tong Tai Market.

DINING in a tent at Hazara

A ROW of stalls at the Tong Tai Market where bargains abound

Stargazing at the fairways

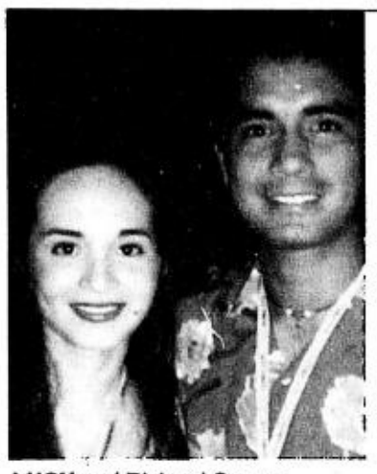
TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

THERE is no golf tournament in the country today quite like the 11th Smart Gold Goma Cup held at the fabulous Fairways and Bluewaters in Boracay last week. And the white beach of Boracay was a perfect setting.

In this by-invitation-only event sponsored by Chivas and Absolut, we practiced golf swings with professionals like **Miñoza, Brobio, Pucay** and **Gibson**! And shared golf carts with the likes of **Richard Gomez** (the man behind the event), **Jomari** and **Paulie Yllana, Ariel Rivera** and **Gelli de Belen.** Where else would you party for four straight nights with beautiful people such as **Lucy Torres Gomez, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Patricia Javier, Carlos Morales, Klaudia Koronel, Janna** and **Cathy Santamaria-Escaño.**

Richard and Lucy Gomez, together with hardworking **Marilen Nuñez,** COO of Hartbeest (organizer of the annual golf festival), were perfect hosts, as always. We had a fantastic time and it was five glorious days of sunshine, stargazing, swimming and yes, playing golf.

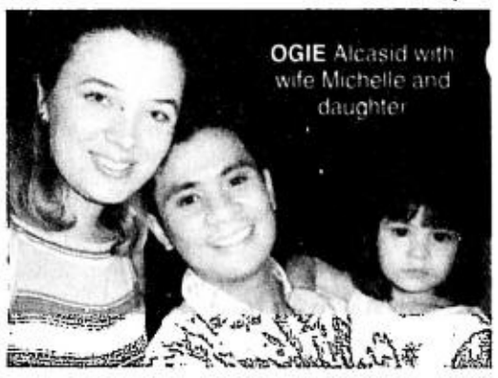


LUCY and Richard Gomez

GELLI de Belen and Ariel Rivera

TV hunks Antonio Aquitania, Cholo and Wendell Ramos

BOBBY Yan



OGIE Alcasid with wife Michelle and daughter

JOMARI Yllana

JONG Cuenco, Klaudia Koronel and Ian Veneracion

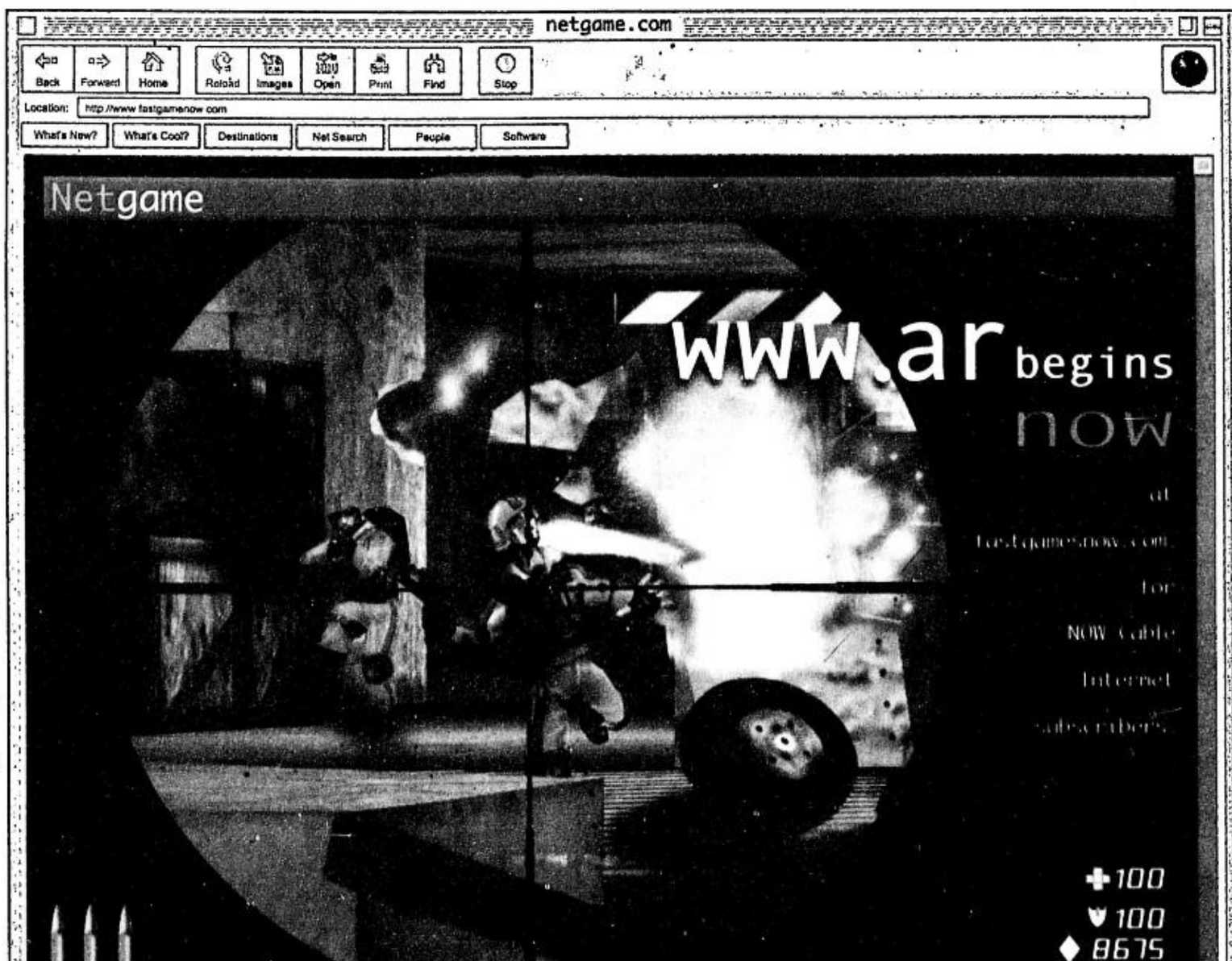
GOLF pro Mars Pucay with wife Leslie

BONG Tirol and Yon Bilbao

MARK Anthony Fernandez

CARLOS Morales

PAULIE Yllana



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TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GA

STUDENTS of the Mariano Marcos State University's College of Education performing the "Ilocana a Nasudi"

Celebrating the Ilocano spirit

BY GINO DORMIENDO

THE ILOCANOS are traditionally known as a hardy, persevering, close-knit, familial folk, but as with Filipinos everywhere, they also look forward to celebrating their fiestas in a grand manner.

Being the hub of trade, commerce and industry in the Ilocos, Laoag City—aptly dubbed the "Sparkling Gem of Ilocandia"—graciously played host last month to the annual Pamulinawen Festival, a week-long celebration that goes back to the mid-1980s and presented as street pageantry featuring Ilocano songs, dances and drama.

The colorful rites of the Pamulinawen personify the indomitable Ilocano character—hardworking, dependable, steadfast—the same sterling qualities that have helped the Ilocano survive through good times and bad. And nowhere are these traits made more obvious than in this celebration, which coincides with the feast day (Feb. 10) of the city's patron saint, St. William the Hermit. The saint's benevolence and generosity, so it is believed, have spared the city from not only the calamities but also the hard times that have befallen the rest of the country.

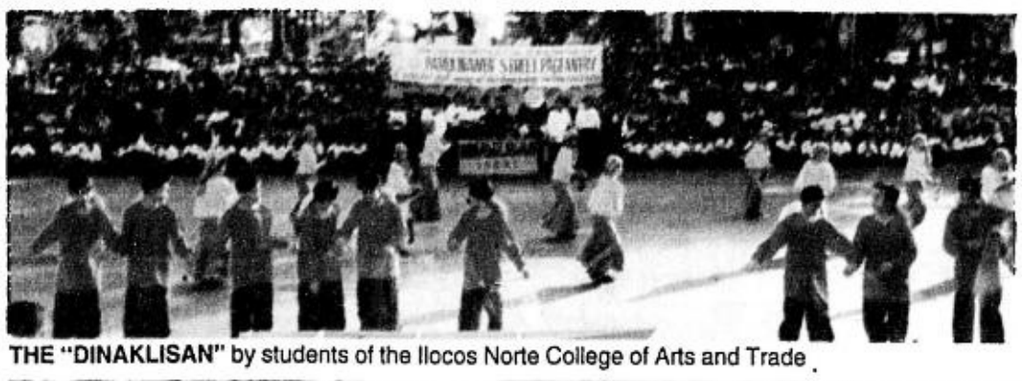
The celebration was jointly sponsored by the Laoag City Tourism Council and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, in cooperation with the city government led by Mayor Roger Fariñas, the Kannawidan Foundation Inc., and the various schools in the city and province. This year's festivities revolved on the theme "Laoag City—Pagsamingan ken Paka-idaydayawan (Mirror of Pride)."

Laoag boasts a long list of achievements, notably its "Operation Dalus," the centerpiece of its clean-and-green program that clinched for it the much-coveted Cleanest and Greenest Component City Award in 1998. This we actually saw for ourselves in the litter-free streets and the robust trees lining the thoroughfares. We were equally amazed to discover that no beggars roam downtown Laoag.

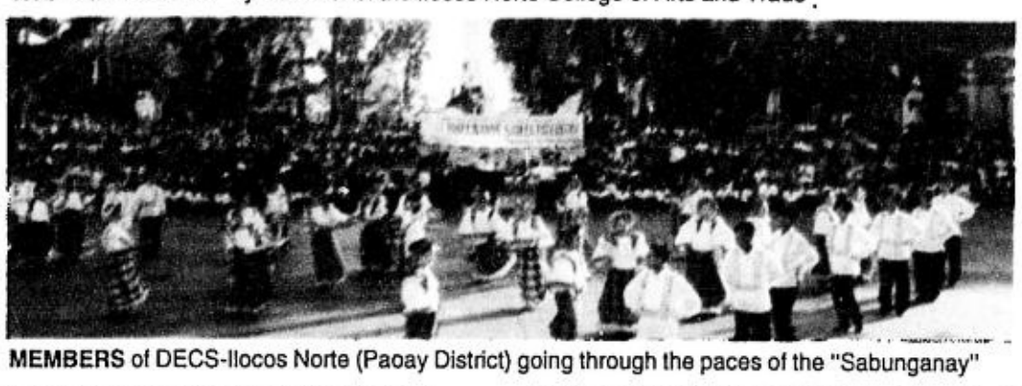
Preparations for the fiesta start as early as January, when all public and private organizations as well as the religious and business sectors are tapped to participate in the various activities.

Also given special participation are the Ilocano expatriates—locally known as *kailian*—who have long resided abroad (notably in various parts of the United States) and the overseas workers who make it a point to be home for the grand reunion with kith and kin.

The colorful ceremonies personify a steadfast character that has helped the Ilocano survive through good times and bad



THE "DINAKLISAN" by students of the Ilocos Norte College of Arts and Trade



MEMBERS of DECS-Ilocos Norte (Paoay District) going through the paces of the "Sabunganay"

The Pamulinawen Dance Parade, which started as an activity of the local colleges and universities, has evolved from a dance inspired by the "Birth of Lam-ang," folk hero of the Ilocanos. It became the "Pagdadapunan" in 1994 and 1995, as a project of the city tourism office chaired by Asuncion Fariñas, the mayor's charming better half. In 1996, a dance parade was held using the Sinulog style of street dancing, with one rhythmic pattern as background music of Ilocano dances.

When the incumbent Mayor Fariñas took over the helm in 1997, the city adapted the "Gulingguling" celebration, which originated from historic Paoay as part of the Lenten rites, and has been handed from generation to generation.

In 1998, the Pamulinawen Dance Parade infused pomp and drama into the celebration. Cultural researcher and choreographer Ramon Obusan of the eponymous folkloric society was subsequently hired as consultant to make the dances as truly expressive of the Ilocano culture and way of life as possible.

This year, city officials worked closely with the NCCA as an advisory body that provided cultural guidance on the celebration. The result of this collaborative effort has paid off, and the dances now accurately reflect age-old Ilocano customs and traditions.

With hundreds of participants—students and teachers garbed in colorful indigenous Ilocano costumes such as the *abel kimona* and matching *pandiling*—the parade promptly took off in mid-afternoon, in order to give the gathering crowd a preview of the actual performances. The street revelers later wound up in front of the provincial capitol where the main stage had been erected. One by one, the dancers took turns in displaying Ilocano culture.

Kicking off the program directed by Edil Duran were the occupational dances as performed by various school contingents: the potmaking culture of Agdamdamili; the Binatbatan of Paoay, which showcases the beating of cotton pods; the fishing industry of Currimao in Dinaklisan; and the saltmaking practice of Panangisan, which originated in Metro La Paz.

Next were the social dances: *Chotis Dingrena*, *La Jota Laoaguena* and *Sabunganay* from Dingras, Laoag City and Paoay, respectively, which were performed by three district schools in Laoag and Paoay. Of the three dances, the *Sabunganay* (literally, banana blossom) wowed the crowd.

Then came the suite of festival dances: *Ilocana a Nasudi*, *Innalisan* and *Surtido Banna*, colorful dance numbers depicting the various celebrations of the rich musical heritage of the province.

The *Nasudi* (literally, lovely Ilocana) comes from Naglayaan of Dingras town, a dance that was originally accompanied by a *kutibeng*, a five-string instrument, but has now been weaned of its foreign folk melody. The *Innalisan*, which originated from Barangay Nangalisan in the city, involves the constant movement from place to place of the town folk. The *Surtido Banna* was a fitting finale. It is based on an Ilocano folk song traced to the town of Banna, which combines Ilocano dance steps, the cross waltz, *mundanger*, *sagamatica* and *habanera*, a dance traditionally performed by the town elite during fiestas and other social events.

Capping the dance performances was a dance directed by homegrown talent Jose Alvarez, and that traces the origins of Pamulinawen, who, in ancient times, stood for the legendary maiden who was endowed with the same qualities and temperament of the Ilocano today.

Blessed with a gentle nature and a noble heart and driven by her fidelity to the Christian faith after her conversion, Pamulinawen is believed to continue to nurture the Ilocano folk as they set out to achieve their collective dream of peace and prosperity.

On the night of Feb. 10, the city folk flocked to the Centennial Arena to witness the Miss Pamulinawen 2001 Grand Finals, an equally colorful event where Laoag's most beautiful and talented ladies vied for the various titles.

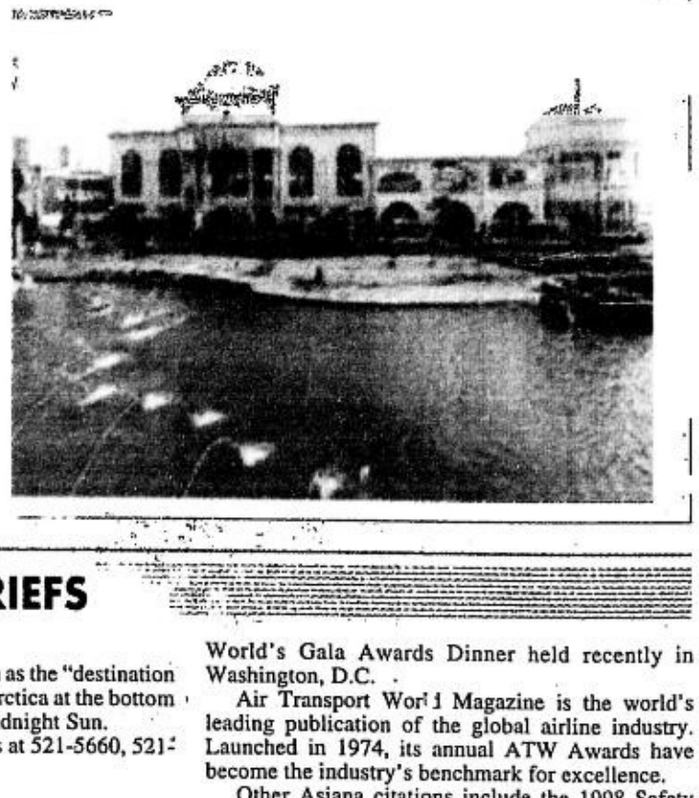
The entire city appeared to be ablaze in a sea of lights. There were also a carnival and a night market, where throngs of revelers had a grand time communing with one another as families and friends offered a collective toast to the good life that crowns the fruits of their labor.

As the Ilocano would quip to us: "*Kablaawan cay amin ti naragsak nga incay panag fiesta* (Greetings for a happy fiesta)!"

AT THE opening parade of the pageantry

TOURIST-FRIENDLY

The newly built Macau International Trade City is one of the fastest developing sites on the former Portuguese colony's waterfront. The tourist-friendly commercial complex houses nine pavilions, each divided into 10 districts or cities designated for information technology, fashion, accessories, etc. It also has a hotel and transportation reservation system and a conference center for the corporate market.



IN FULL GALLOP

The province of Abra marks its founding with a 4-day celebration aptly called "Arya Abral" on March 9-11. Activities include trade fairs, livestock parades and races featuring hardy native horses. Join Causeway Tours on its Ilocos Rediscovery Tour and experience the culture and history of not only Abra but also Ilocos Sur and La Union. For reservations, call 853-8728 or 853-8652.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

History and mystery

THERE'S still time to unravel Australia's history and mystery and, on the side, purchase original prints and antique books, excellent reproductions and facsimile publications about that country.

"Terra Australis," a sales exhibition in line with the celebration of Australia's Centenary of Federation, is on view until March 8 at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas corner Perea Street, Makati City.

The exhibition showcases, among others, lithographic works and engravings done during the voyages of the French explorers Cyrille-Pierre, Theodore Laplace, Hyacinthe Yves and Philippe Potentien Baron de Bougainville in Australia.

Further information may be obtained from the Gallery of Prints at phone 819-0631 or from the Cultural Affairs, Australian Embassy, at phone 754-6135, fax 893-0807, e-mail roli.inocencio@dfat.gov.au or website australia.com.ph.

Global cruise line

STAR Cruises was formally introduced to travel agents as "the first global cruise line" in a recent product launch of Star Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line and Orient Lines.

According to Marlene Pajanel, sales manager of Star Cruises Philippines, the cruise line generated last year an estimated 5,000 passengers from the Philippine market.

She said it hoped to further increase its targets this year, with more destinations to choose from.

Norwegian Cruise Line offers "free style cruising" to Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, America and the Panama Canal, Europe and other exciting destinations.

Orient Lines, otherwise known as the "destination cruise specialist," sails from Antarctica at the bottom of the world to the land of the Midnight Sun.

For inquiries, call Star Cruises at 521-5660, 521-5637, 526-8401.

Best deals

IF you're looking to make the great escape to Europe, the United States and beyond, check out Lakbay.net for the best deals for airfares, tour packages and even international cruises by Princess Cruises.

Lakbay.net has added a new international booking engine by Amadeus called 1a-Res for real time surfing for all international airlines, as well as "Fly-Sail" packages on Princess Cruises to Europe, Alaska and the Caribbean.

It also has a policy to "match or better" rates where possible in order to offer the lowest rates in town.

Visit Lakbay.net Airfare and Cruise information at http://www.lakbay.net.ph/airtickets/index.html or http://www.lakbay.net.ph/tours/cruises/index.html. For more information, call LakbaySUPPORT hotline at 02-449-2222.

Passenger Service Award

KOREAN national flag carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) has added another award to its growing list of citations.

Air Transport World Magazine has selected OZ for its 2001 Passenger Service Award, recognizing its outstanding passenger service, leadership innovation and responsiveness to the needs of customers in the air and on the ground.

The award was presented at the Air Transport World's Gala Awards Dinner held recently in Washington, D.C.

Air Transport World Magazine is the world's leading publication of the global airline industry. Launched in 1974, its annual ATW Awards have become the industry's benchmark for excellence.

Other Asiana citations include the 1998 Safety Management Grand Prize from Business Traveler Magazine, the 1999 Outstanding Service Reliability Award from Boeing, and the 1999 Award of Excellence of Airbus.

OZ has a fleet of 54 aircraft and a network of 45 cities in 12 countries, including Japan and the United States.

'AirCares'

NORTHWEST Airlines and its frequent flyer program, WorldPerks, recently announced the launch of its corporate program, AirCares, with Medecins San Frontieres or MSF (Doctors without Borders), the humanitarian medical organization and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, as its charitable partner.

Laurie Lofgren, the airline's general manager for the Philippines, Guam and Micronesia, said that since 1992, AirCares had assisted more than 30 charitable groups in the United States.

Today MSF operates in more than 80 countries, providing emergency medical relief to victims of wars and natural disasters, and access to health care to people in countries with insufficient health facilities.

WorldPerks members in the Philippines may support AirCares by donating their WorldPerks miles to MSF, which it will use to fly its workers to assist populations in need.

Jesus is tempted by Satan in the desert

COMPILED BY TELLY ALBERT ZULUETA

Conclusion

SATAN continues tempting Jesus (PDI Lifestyle, 02/25/01) but now changes his tactic. Maria Valtorta, the religious woman to whom Jesus explains why He has chosen certain scenes of his life for her to witness, continues:

"Satan now says: 'But what a fool I am! You are hungry and I am talking to You of women. Your energy is exhausted. That is why the fragrance of the earth, that flower of creation, the fruit that gives and excites love, seems without value to you.

'But look at these stones. How round and smooth they look gilded by the sun. Don't they look like loaves? Since You are the Son of God, all You have to say is: 'I want!' and they will become sweet-smelling bread. The earth is bowing down to put itself at Your feet and appease Your hunger.

'Can't You see You are turning pale and unsteady at the mention of bread? Poor Jesus! You are so weak You cannot even work a miracle. Shall I work it for You? I am not Your equal but I can still do something.'

"Jesus says: 'Be quiet! Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God!'

"The devil starts with anger. He grinds his teeth and clenches his fists. But he controls himself and turns his grinding into a grim smile and starts again:

'I understand. You are above the necessities of the earth. Come then and see what is in the house of God. You will see that even rabbis [priests] do not refuse to compromise between the spirit and the flesh. After all, they are men, not angels. Work a spiritual miracle.

'I will take you up to the pinnacle of the temple. You will then call the myriads of angels and tell them to form a footrest with their interlaced wings lest You dash Your feet against a stone. Thus will they let You down, into the yard, so that the people can see You and remember God exists! One must show oneself now and again because man's memory is so weak, particularly with regard to spiritual matters.

'You understand that Your apparition would not change anything and the Temple would continue to be a nest of vipers and men with tear and are torn to pieces by others for the sake of prevailing. They are subdued only by human power.

'Adore me for one moment only! Appease this thirst of mine for being worshipped! It ruined me, but it is still left in me and I am parched for it. The flames of hell are like a fresh morning breeze as compared to this longing burning inside me. It is my hell, this thirst. One moment, one moment only, Christ! One moment of joy for this eternally tortured one! Let me feel what it is like to be God. One moment and I will be Your devoted, obedient servant for life.'

"And Satan falls on his knees, imploring.

"Jesus, instead, stands up. He has lost weight because of His long days of fast and He now looks taller. His face is terribly severe and powerful. His eyes are like two burning sapphires. He cries: 'Be off, Satan! It is written: You must worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone.'

"Satan, with a cry of fearful, tortured and indescribable hatred, springs to his feet, a dreadful sight in his furious, smoky figure and disappears with a last cursing yell.

"Jesus explains later:

'As you have seen, kindness is always Satan's disguise when he presents himself. If souls are careful, above all, if they are in spiritual contact with God, they perceive the warning that makes them conscious and prepares them to fight the devil's snares.

'But if souls are distracted, separated from God by an overwhelming sensuality and are not assisted by prayer, which joins them to God Who pours strength into the hearts of men, then they perceive the devil's snares and they fall into the trap. It is then very difficult for them to free themselves.

'The two most common means adopted by Satan to conquer souls are sensuality and gluttony. He always starts from material things. Once he has dismantled and subdued the material side, he attacks the spiritual part.

'First the morals: thoughts with their pride and greed; then the spirit, obliterating not only its love—which no longer exists when man replaces divine love with other human loves—but also the fear of God. The man surrenders his body and soul to Satan, only for the sake of enjoying what he wants, to enjoy it more.

'You saw how I behaved. Silence and prayer. Silence—because when Satan performs his work of seducer and comes round us, we must put up with any situation without any foolish impatience or cowardly fears. We must react with resolution to his presence and with prayer against his allurements.

'It is useless to debate with Satan. He would win because he is strong in his dialectics. Only God can beat him. And so you must have recourse to God, so that He speaks for you, through you. You must call out My name and show Satan My Sign. He cannot bear that One must be determined to defeat and the angels serve and defend the winner from Satan's hatred. They restore him with the Grace that God pours into the hearts of the faithful ones, with a blessing that caresses the soul."

He is still attracted to men but renews himself through apostolate

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,
Peace!

First, I would like to thank you for the support you have given to Courage. Since the time you published Joe's letter (03/98) so many with homosexual concerns have gotten in touch. Joe tried to answer all the calls, but as the saying goes, "Many are called but few are chosen." Of the few who remained—I am one of them—have benefited greatly from his guidance. I am not yet completely free from my dark past, the frequency of my acting-out has been significantly reduced to a point wherein I am almost totally celibate. Even my homosexual attractions have greatly diminished. I still find men attractive but not in a sexual way anymore. Most important of all, I have come to realize how God really intends me to be and that is to be a man in the real sense of the word. I am very happy about it. But I know I still have to continue renewing myself until I become a truly faithful follower of Christ.

Now, since Joe is facing heavy demands of this lofty apostolate, he had to take a short leave, and he handed over to me the responsibility of handling Courage. I promised him I will do my best.

Much like my brothers out there who, despite their homosexual orientation, would like to live a lifestyle in consonance with the teachings of the Church, I still feel very much wounded. But God's way is indeed mysterious. From my own "woundedness" (my same-sex orientation), I sense I am chosen to be a helper. I thought everything ended when my childhood dream of priesthood was not realized. But God led the way. I got into Courage and I truly see this as one priestly involvement that anyone can get into. I can strongly sense that this is my calling from God and that all my past hurts and pains were just part of the preparation for this.

In my reflections, I have come to realize that I have become a homosexual basically because of rejection. But with God's grace, I developed that needed sensitivity in order to minister to wounded people, especially homosexuals. What lies ahead? Well, God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.

And so, Tita, through your column, together with my companions, I would like to invite those individuals with homosexual concerns to get in touch with Courage. They can reach us through pager 1481-890065, (0917) 892-2257, fax 434-9031 e-mail courage@edsamail.com.ph or tel. 434-9031 every Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

All information will be treated with utmost confidence. Our time and resources may be limited, but we always try to do our best.

We will also be needing help from counselors, psychologists and hopefully even priests, who can be spiritual directors-confessors who would want to share with us their time, talent and treasure in handling the gargantuan task. Courage will also be conducting free seminars to individuals and groups to better acquaint them on the real situation regarding this issue.

In behalf of Courage, thank you very much, Tita Dulce. You are heaven-sent to us. You are our bridge to many.

COUNSELOR MAX

You and Courage are heaven-sent because there are so many today with homosexual problems. Let's hope and pray that your request for volunteers will be answered. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Good luck.

Choosing between two loves

IT'S been eight months since my boyfriend and I broke up. Our relationship lasted for two years. We parted as friends. We still have communication because my family and his are friends. I heard he has a new girlfriend and I felt sad about it. He knows all my suitors and teases me about them. What he doesn't know is that I've never entertained them.

Then last September, I met a guy who started to court me. He is nice and kind and gets along with my friends. As time went by, I developed a liking for him. I get irritated when he is with someone else. I like him, but then I'm still hoping and waiting for my ex-boyfriend. Do I have to give this new one a chance? Please help me.

KAYE

When choosing between two men courting you, take the one who loves you more. In this case, you already refer to the other one as an ex, and he already has another girlfriend. Therefore, you only have to decide about the one you recently met. It is up to you now to make up your mind whether to entertain him or not, and since you feel unhappy when you see him with someone else, it should give you the message that you should give the two of you a chance to know each other more. This has been said in this column several times now: Friendship is the best soil for the seed of love to germinate.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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The greatest stories ever told

(From page E2)

build towers to the sky and change the world! These hands will someday perform wonderful works! They will build bridges. They will heal the sick. They will hit homeruns or write soul-stirring novels! These are the hands that will someday change the course of destiny! Look at these hands of destiny, Lucy!"

Lucy peers at Charlie's hands very closely and then says: "They've got jelly on them, Charlie Brown!"

Sister Anselm helped us

We did have jelly on our hands in the second grade—and mud and a lot of other things I wouldn't want to talk about. Sister Anselm saw the jelly and the mud, of course, but she also saw that our little second grade hands were truly hands of destiny and someday would do great things—like being a Jesuit missionary in a country halfway round the world. It was Sister Anselm's stories that helped us accomplish those great things—because she loved us.

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Think BIG! Think like a WINNER!
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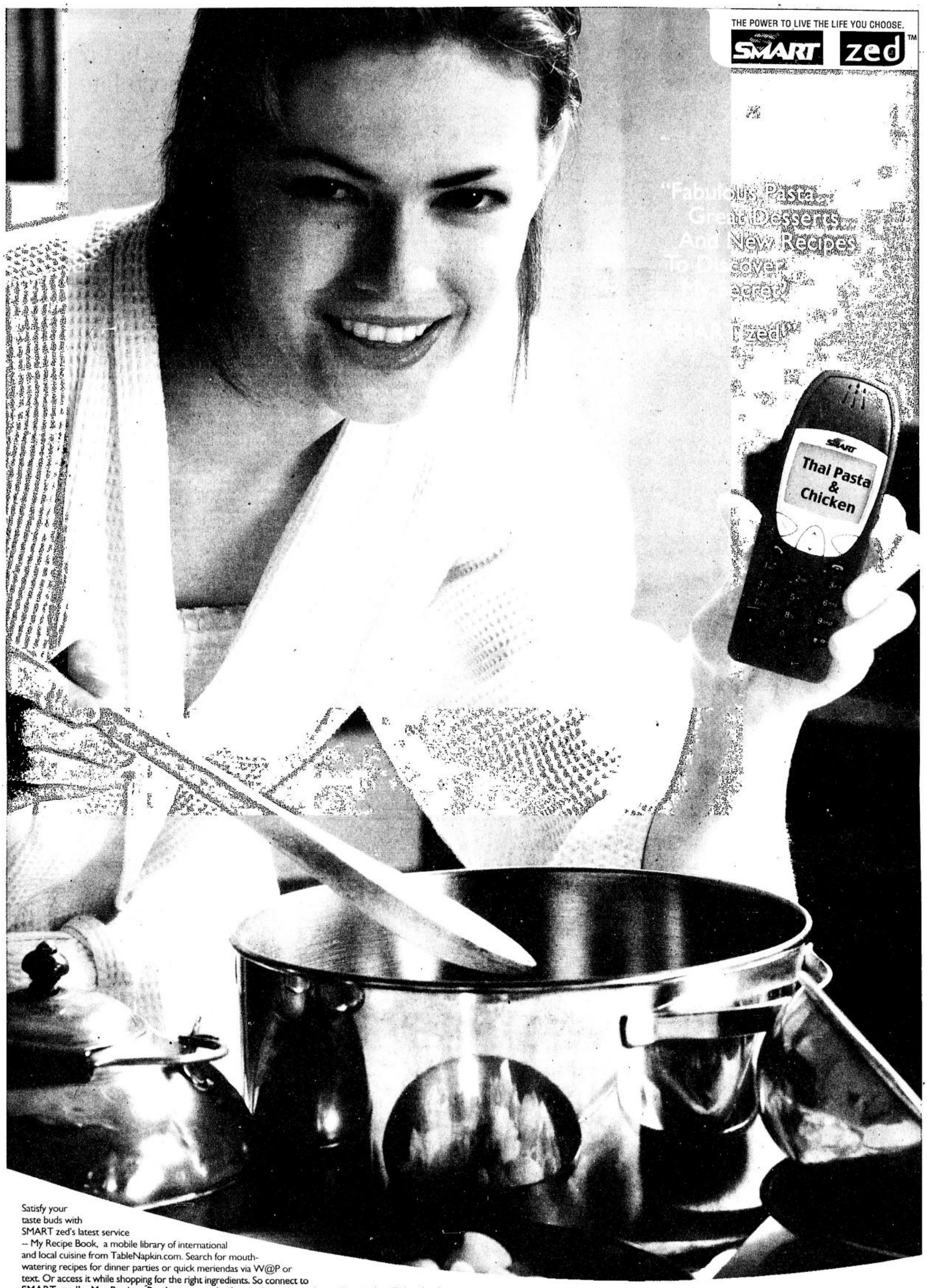

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Waker-uppers

It's a mad, mad, mad cow world

COMPILED BY LITO B. ZULUETA

THE MAD Cow scare is reaching hysterical proportion. The hysteria has been particularly fanned by wild text messages, such as this one about Jollibee: "Avoid Jolybee burgers & steak. 1 exec from Joly B resigned & confirmed dey are using contaminated meat from Europe!! Pls pas to ur luv ones."

The message has no basis. According to **Rocky Dimaculangan**, corporate affairs manager of Jollibee, no executive has resigned in the last five months. Jollibee's beef requirements are imported from Australia and New Zealand. They are two of only 11 countries in the world that meet "Category 1" status—the highest possible status for mad cow disease-freedom.

Moreover, Jollibee's frozen patty line—the production line that produces hamburger patties—is ISO 9002 certified. The ISO 9002 is the global quality standard for manufacturing.

Grumblings at Binibining Pilipinas

CONTESTANTS are grumbling about alleged favoritism in the Binibining Pilipinas. They complain that while in-house photographers took their photographs for the contest's website and press portfolios, no questions asked, a few contestants were allowed to submit glossy studio pictures taken by their photographers of their choice.

Moreover, the website has errors. One candidate's bustline is put at 30, when the correct statistic is 34. Another candidate's bustline is put at 32; the correct figure is 34. One candidate's waistline is said to be 20; the correct figure is 24.

A home of their own

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts will put up the Tuwali Ifugao Village in Hungduan, Ifugao to promote cultural tourism and preserve traditional Ifugao culture and arts. On March 8, the National Museum will sign a 50-year lease agreement with the Litnangan family, donors of the site, to develop a hectare free of charge and construct a Tuwali village. The structures to be built on the sight are planned to be showcases of Ifugao architecture. The village will be transformed into an NCCA School for Living Traditions and will feature a museum, several souvenir shops and a tourism office.

Smear job on Lorna?

A REELECTIONIST councilor of Antipolo City has dragged actress **Lorna Tolentino** into the controversy involving the city's Cogeo Market. Councilor **Eva Querubin** has called for the closure of the market because of its alleged unsanitary slaughterhouse. Tolentino happens to be a minority shareholder of the market.

But the market denies the charge. Board members say the councilor is only grandstanding and capitalizing on the fact Tolentino is one of the owners to stir publicity for her campaign.

Tolentino says she is not commenting on the issue and would leave the matter to the market's management. She is busy campaigning for her husband, **Rudy Fernandez**, who is running for mayor of Quezon City.

LORNA Tolentino gets a buzz from No. 1 fan.

LANI Mercado discovers she has several electoral clones.

BINIBINING Pilipinas candidate Michelle Reyes

Airport boss playing favorites?

NEWLY appointed airport general manager **Edgardo Manda** does not appear bent on endearing himself to the employees, staff and even mediamen at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia). Probably not yet.

The new airport boss has a reputation for being a snob. Mediamen on the beat say Manda does not even return the greetings of newsmen.

Manda recently imposed stricter sanctions on the issuance of airport passes, following the **Laarni Enriquez** incident at Naia. Enriquez arrived on a Continental Airlines flight from Guam, but was escorted by an aide wearing an all-access pass at Naia, so she didn't have to pass through Immigration.

However, Manda is said to play favorites when it comes to the issuance of access passes. Early last week, a newspaper editor requested for a pass to meet his ailing mother who arrived from the United States. The old lady had to be given a wheelchair to get out of the terminal.

However, the request was denied and the editor was only given access until the customs area.

That same night, officers of the PNP Aviation Security Group were seen escorting an intelligence officer from the US Embassy, who welcomed a visiting dignitary. All of them were given access to the tube of the arrival gate.

But Manda, who was the deputy chief of staff of President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** when she was still vice president, is said to be a hardworking boss. He stays up late to oversee operations at Naia. That is, after reportedly having an early evening massage, a whim of the airport chief.

During his early days at Naia, Manda was also noticed by airport personnel for his unkempt appearance. He would wear an old, wrinkled, dirty white barong Tagalog. But somebody must have advised Manda about his grooming because he now reports for work in tailored suits.

Dirty tricks department

BELIEVE it or not, after **Lani Mercado** filed her candidacy for mayor of Bacoor in Cavite, it was learned that candidates with a roughly similar name—**Lani Tabuan**, **Lita Mercado** and **Leny Revilla**—had filed their certificates of candidacy.

Lani is entering politics for the first time. In the previous years, she merely supported her husband, action star **Bong Revilla Jr.**, who is running for his second term as Cavite governor.

An official at the governor's office tried to locate the candidates, but tracked down only Tabuan.

Tabuan's certificate of candidacy indicated her name, birthday, address and age. However, Tabuan expressed shock at the certificate. She said she did not file it and had no interest in politics.

From the reader

Photos in bad taste

I WOULD like to clarify what age group is being targeted in your 2bu section. I have the impression that teenagers are part of your target market since you have advice columns for young people, as well as surveys on what the youth think about certain issues.

If I am right, then I wish to question the inclusion of two photographs in **Tim Yap**'s article "Beadtime stories at New Orleans' Mardi Gras" (PDI, 02/28/01). The two photos are captioned "Wiggle it..." and "Thong-thong-thong..." While these photos illustrate Yap's article, I think they are in bad taste.

Lastly, I would also like to comment on your "prom feature" a couple of weeks ago. The prom dresses you featured were all done by famous designers and cost something like P18,000 up. What message are you sending to your readers? That they can only look their best if they buy expensive prom dresses? What about the students who can't afford them? It would have been better if you had included advice on how to look good at the prom without spending a fortune.

I've been a fan of the INQUIRER for many years. I hope your paper doesn't forget how much influence and power you have in shaping the youth.

PAULINE GOMEZ
21 P.F. Espiritu St.
Bacoor, Cavite

On second look, the two photos seem risque. We promise to exercise stricter editorial discernment next time, especially since 2bU caters to young people. The prom article should not be taken as an endorsement of expensive prom dresses. We take your advice on running an article on looking good for the prom at a wise bargain in good spirit.—Ed.

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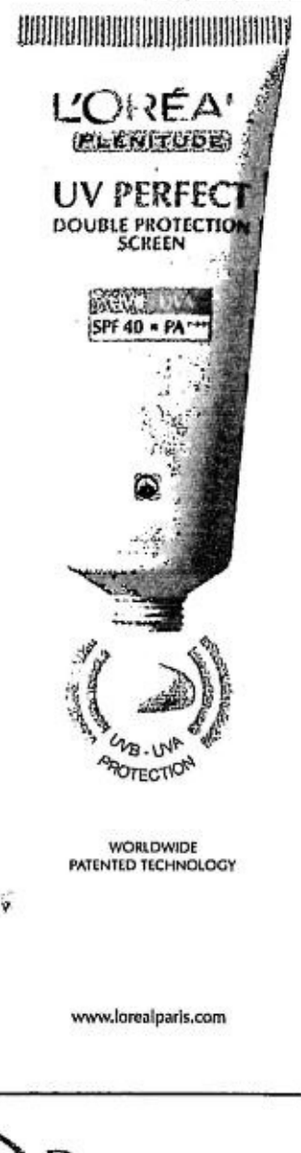

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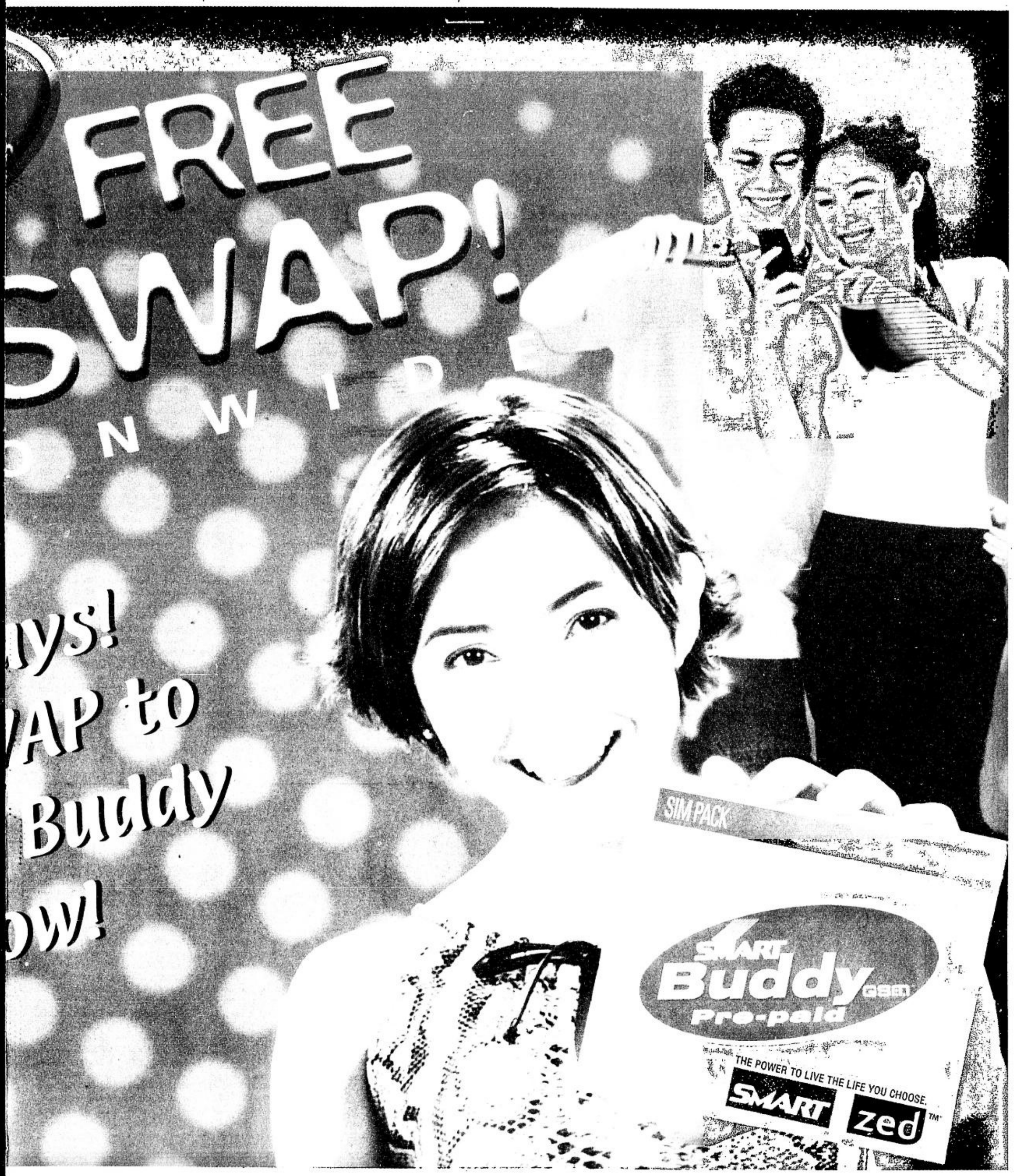

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	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	DURATION	VENUE
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			Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
on University			Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
da			Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
College			Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
olastica's College		Alternative Campus Tour	Mar. 10	Gym
ouis University	Marketing Mixers	Marketing Nite	Mar. 10	Campus
tronix	Admin Dept.	Job Fair	Mar. 9	Campus
s University Foundation	AUF Foundation	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
ngel University	HAU Student Affairs	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
nga High School	Admin Dept.	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
aloios	Accounting Dept.	Pre-graduation blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
y's Colleges-Meycauayan	Marian Athletic Club	Pre-graduation blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
stin Colleges	St. Agustin Coop	Pre-graduation blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
State University	Sigma Nu	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Luzon Doctor's Hospital	Rotaract Club	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
mban College	Student Council	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Polytechnic State College	Traders Multi Purpose Coop	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
De.Naga	Student Council	Soundtrack Concert	Mar. 5 to 6	Campus
s University	Administration	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 7 to 9	Campus
Banos	Administration	Foundation Day	Mar. 6	Campus
Banos	College of Agriculture	Trade Fair	Mar. 6 to 9	Campus
sity of Batangas	Administration	Job Fair	Mar. 5 to 6	Campus

BRANCH	SCHOOL	EVENT	DURATION	VENUE
VISAYAS				
Cebu	University of San Carlos-Main Campus	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of San Carlos-Tech Center	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of the Visayas	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of Cebu	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Cebu Doctor's College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of San Jose-Recoletos	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of the Philippines-Cebu	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Velez College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Southwestern University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	University of Southern Philippines	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Cebu Institute of Technology	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Cebu	Salazar Institute of Technology	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Silliman University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Foundation University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Saint Paul College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Dumaguete	Central Visayas Polytechnic College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tagbilaran	Divine World College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tagbilaran	Philippine Maritime Institute	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tagbilaran	STI	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Campus
Tacloban	Leyte Normal University	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	Asean Development Foundation	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	AMA Computer School	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Entrance Porch
Tacloban	Sacred Heart School	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Thaddeus Canteen
Tacloban	Leyte Institute of Technology	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	UP College of Tacloban	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen
Tacloban	St. Paul Business School of Tacloban	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Main Bldg.
Tacloban	St. Escolastica College Tacloban	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	Metro Digital
Catbalogan Samar	Samar State Polytechnic College	Sim Swap Blitz	Mar. 5 to 9	School Canteen

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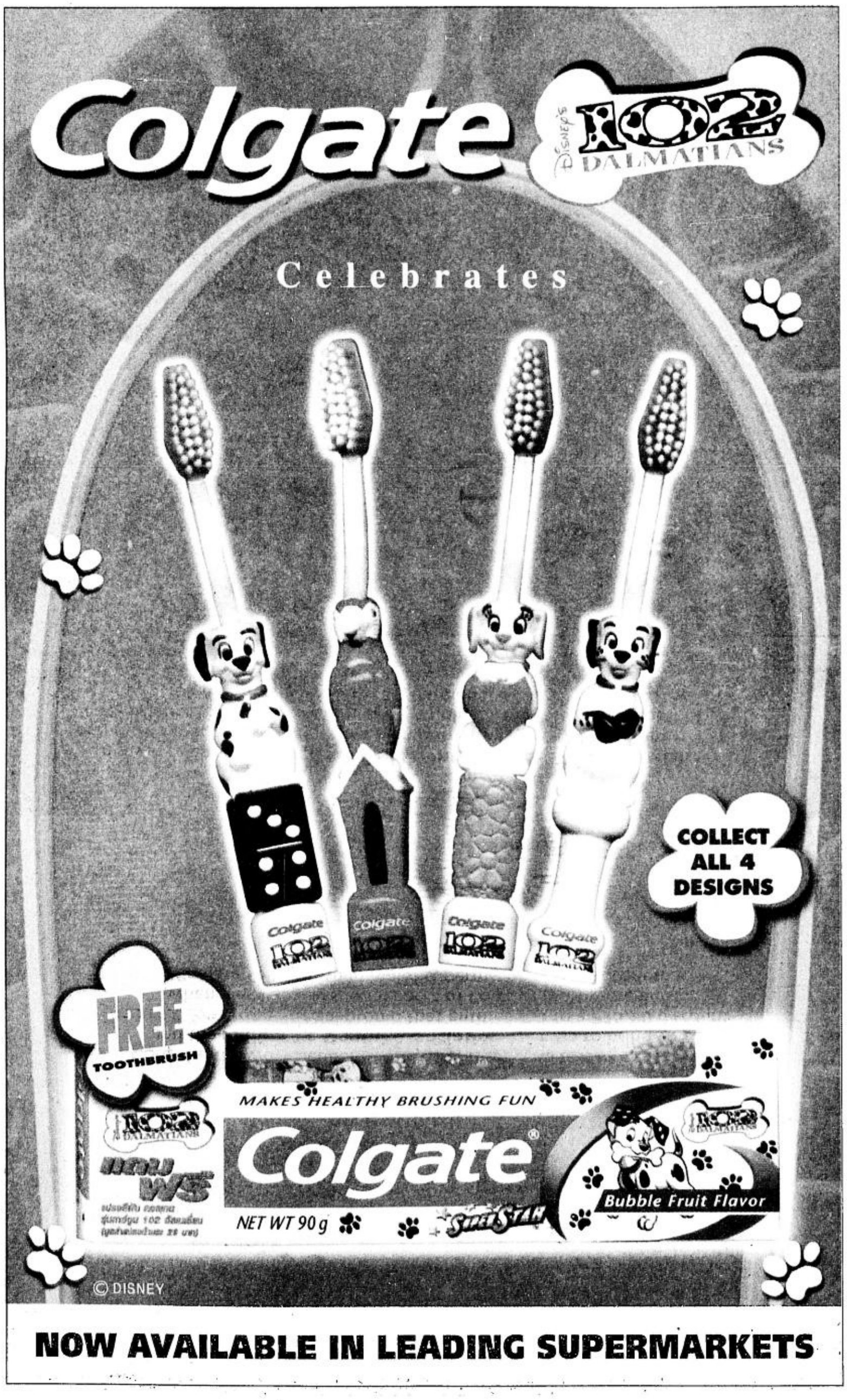
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2570, Series of 2000



NOW AVAILABLE IN LEADING SUPERMARKETS

Selective de-junking

BY EUFEMIA C. ESTRADA

UNLIKE Wordsworth whose heart leaps up when he beholds a rainbow in the sky, mine does at the sight of a sign like "Ye Olde Shoppe" or "Garage Sale."

Yes, I confess I am a confirmed junkie. I have known that for the past 10 years.

It was 10 years ago when I discovered this book, "Clutter's Last Stand," by Don Aslett, America's No. 1 cleaning expert. I know it was 10 years ago because of the receipt dated 1991 I had tucked into it as a bookmark. Typical, you might say.

The vital signs of this junkie are: My little apartment is "interesting." It's like a museum, Connie, a friend of my niece Jo, says. There are many conversation pieces—my owl collection, my blue and white, my miniatures, my timer collection, my apples, cows, frogs, angels, Santa Clauses, shells, teapots, nested Russian dolls (nested dolls are dolls of graduated sizes, which fit one into the other with as many as seven dolls in a set), traditional children's toys, children's books—name it, I probably have eight pieces of each which make up a collection.

I have old magazines lying around. Year-old, you say? More like decades old.

I have pants that I can't zip up anymore, but they are Marks & Spencer, how can I bear to part with them?

I have books I have never gotten around to finishing like the one on speed-reading.

I have appliances that I don't use, like the insect killer that trapped one mosquito in one night. Then there's the old refrigerator I have been saving for when I get to build a beach house on a piece of beach property I have bought. And an old kitchen sink—deep, wide and roomy from a demolished house, for when I build my dream house.

I have costume jewelry I never wear but keep for when the grandnieces need them for their nursery school programs.

I have old wristwatches, from my first Bulova watch to my father's retirement watch, now 43 years old, the makings of a wristwatch collection!

I have paraphernalia from hobbies and projects I may pick up again someday—scraps of felt and clothing materials, rickrack, bias tape, embroidery threads, yard, crafts and crochet books and magazines, beads, sequins, wooden balls for doll's heads, gold and silver threads, gold and silver glitter, twist paper, *gugo* strips, among others.

I have sentimental keepsakes like my brother Albert's flannel shirt (he died in infancy), my first communion lace cap and coroner of feather flowers, my late father's papers including the original of his speech at a Parade and Review on his retirement (he was the first Department of National Defense civilian administrative officer to be honored thus).

Truly, the longer you live, seven decades in my case, the more junk you acquire.

What have I done about de-junking my life in the past 10 years? Let me take stock using Aslett's dos and don'ts.

• **Observe the one-in, one-out rule, like zero population growth.** When you acquire something new, something old has to go. Well, I donated my 20-year-old electric range to Goodwill with a heavy heart because there was no room in my kitchen for two ranges.

• **Don't indulge in window shopping, not even as part of your exercise.** It's dangerous to your resolve not to acquire junk. In particular, avoid so-called junk danger copes like sales and Ye Olde Shoppes.

But I just love walking through the malls, going to garage sales, rummage sales, white elephant sales, flea markets, thrift shops and bazaars just browsing for something interesting. Maybe something like a potato peeler just for arthritics like me where the motion is not away from the thumb but toward the thumb, or not away from the body but toward the body. This motion is important for arthritics to avoid the deformation of the fingers known as ulnar deviation where the fingers turn away from the thumb. But guess what? I still prefer my old peeler.

• **Stop buying!** The standard question to ask oneself is, "Do I need it or do I want it?" If you need it, go ahead, buy it. If you don't, resist, resist, resist. Take it from one who bought that pewter bookmark I don't really need and never use.

• **Don't buy something for future use.** Panic buying in times of crises may not solve the problem. Do you have a hundred ways of serving the sardines you stock up on in such times? My cousin Med, who has three daughters, stocked up on sanitary napkins, at the time used with belts, when the price of paper products was on the rise. Not even halfway through her stock came beltless napkins.

• **Don't keep things because you may need it in the future (like my old ref), because of their sentimental value (like my father's ancestral place in Zamboanga, which was overrun by squatters), or because they may increase in value with the years (like wads of Micky Mouse money).** I had no choice but to give up the old ref and the enamel kitchen sink when I moved to a condominium. And we finally sold the ancestral property.

• **If you haven't been using it for some time, get rid of it.** (Oh, no, not the antique chamber pot!) If the clothes don't fit, get rid of them. Don't wait for the day when you'll get your old figure back. It may be a long wait.

I do get rid of old clothes at garage sales twice a year but the Marks & Spencer pants are still in my cabinet.

• **Miniaturize it.** Unless you are an Alvin Patrimonio, take photos of the trophies and plaques you accumulate through the years and dispose of the originals. Find out if they can be recycled.

• **On your next trip, bring home more memories and less souvenirs (refrigerator magnets, spoons, etc.).** Photos successfully capture the memory. If the trip is domestic, bring home the province's specialty food. Being perishable, the only place where it may show will be on your hips.

• **After the next convention you attend, immediately go over the junk you have brought home—buttons, badges, pins, posters, stickers, menu cards, IDs, printed matter you may never need again.** I must confess though that I still keep the souvenirs I got from the Friendship Night of the 1990 Soroptimist Convention in Kyoto, Japan; badges from Glendale (California), Rocky Mountains, Cincinnati, New Jersey, Canada, Bellflower City (California), Japan-Kita Region; key chains from Tahoe, Curitiba, Peru; a dried, mini gourd from Ogaki (Japan); a bookmark from Northwestern Region; a plaster figurine from Brazil; a coaster from Covina (USA); ¾-inch Japanese wooden clogs with a tiny bell; an origami heron. Well, no one is perfect.

• **Recycle.** This is where I differ with Aslett. I don't classify disposables as junk. Reuse those happy bags from the supermarket and department stores, plastic containers from takeout meals and plastic spoons (for small jobs).

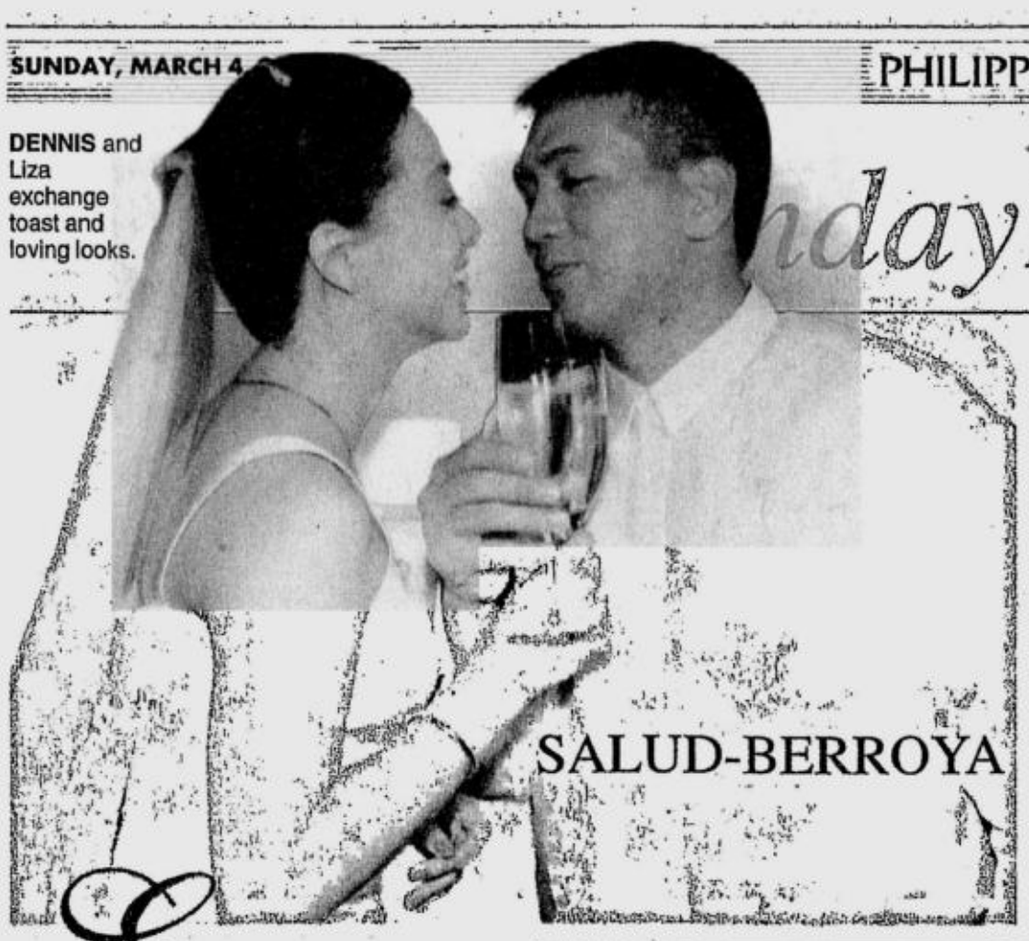
• **Don't throw away junk mail.** Use the clean back for memo pads, bigger sheets for sifting flour and other dry ingredients when baking, or for lining cabinets. Pat yourself for the many trees you save by this practice.

Aslett says a thing is not junk if it generates love and good feelings, and if it will enrich or delight the coming generations. Well, two of my grandnieces have already staked their claim to part of my collection—Marijo, 11, the colorful nested fat clay dolls from Colombia ("Lola Femy, *ito na lang ang* remembrance *mo sa akin*"), and Nana, 6, my nested Russian Babushka dolls ("when you die").

My paraphernalia for my crafts I have started giving to 9-year-old Mickee, who immerses herself in creative crafts after school. Already she has created many projects there's hardly any place on the wall of a room reserved for displaying such projects.

De-junk your life? I choose selective de-junking.

SundayLIFESTYLE



DENNIS and Liza exchange toast and loving looks.

SALUD-BERROYA

IRENE Salud, Gina Rodriguez, Ollie Hechanova, the newlyweds, Mayen Delingon, Trixie Mutuc and Claudette Cordon

Even St. Michael and the angels wept with joy

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

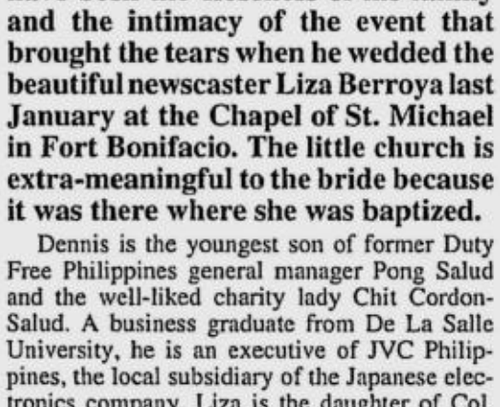
IT was one wedding where the groom shed more tears than the bride. For Dennis Salud, it must have been the closeness of his family and the intimacy of the event that brought the tears when he wedded the beautiful newscaster Liza Berroya last January at the Chapel of St. Michael in Fort Bonifacio. The little church is extra-meaningful to the bride because it was there where she was baptized.

Dennis is the youngest son of former Duty Free Philippines general manager Pong Salud and the well-liked charity lady Chit Cordon-Salud. A business graduate from De La Salle University, he is an executive of JVC Philippines, the local subsidiary of the Japanese electronics company. Liza is the daughter of Col. Reynaldo Berroya and the former Leonor Garcia. She also studied in La Salle. In 1992 she was proclaimed Bb. Pilipinas-Universe. She is presently doing the news on ANC Channel 21.

Elegant rites

The Eucharistic Mass was officiated by Fr. Tomas Paul Naval. Lani Misalucha sang "The Lord's Prayer" in the church rites and later entertained the guests in the reception held at

EVEN/ p.G2



ARIANNE Lim and Irene Salud

LIZA and Dennis with their moms Chit Salud and Leonor Berroya

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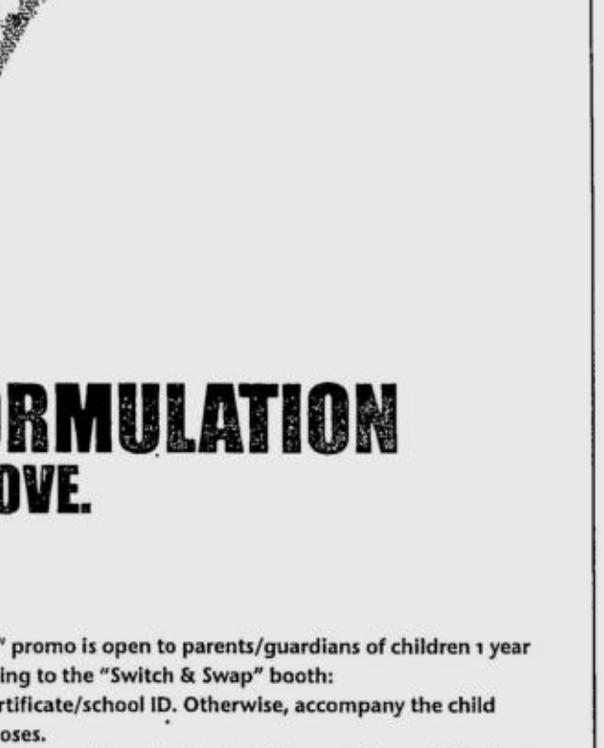
Abbott GROW "Switch & Swap" promo is open to parents/guardians of children 1 year and older. Just bring the following to the "Switch & Swap" booth:
1. Photocopy of child's birth certificate/school ID. Otherwise, accompany the child personally for verification purposes.
2. One (1) empty can (any size) of any milk product (except Grow, Gain, and Gainplus) currently used by the child.
3. Accomplished data coupon (from newspaper advertisement clipping or on-site leaflet).

In exchange for these requirements, the "Switch & Swap" Promo entitles the participant to the following benefits:
1. FREE 36 gm. Sample packs (2 each) of Abbott GROW (Vanilla & Chocolate flavor)
2. FREE Abbott GROW Inflatable toy.
3. FREE Nutritional Assessment via Fil-Anthrop computer program.
4. FREE Photograph with "Raffee," the Abbott GROW mascot.
5. Option for on-site discounted purchase of Abbott GROW 200 gm. pack.

* One entry per family
* Offer good while supplies last.

Only GROW has "OPTI-GROW," a combination of 32 growth nutrients that includes Taurine, Choline and UTM's (Molybdenum, Chromium & Selenium) for your child's optimum mental and physical development. So switch to GROW now!



Please fill out this coupon and submit to the "Switch & Swap" Booth:

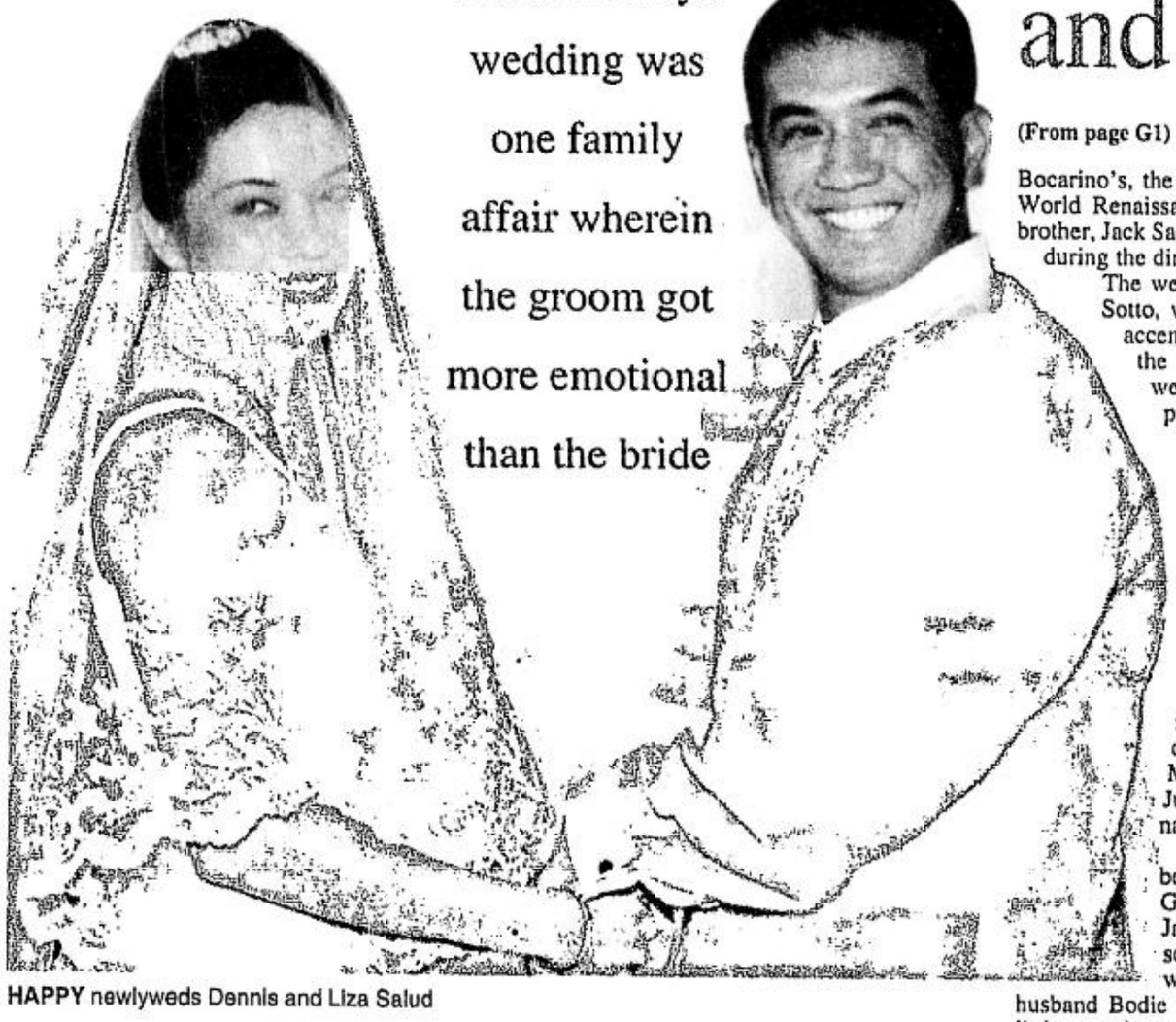
Name of Child: _____ Name of Parent/Guardian: _____
Address: _____ Gender: _____
Birthdate: _____ Weight: _____ kgs.
Phone No. _____ Height: _____ cms.

Per DOH - BFAD Permit NO. 0039 series of 2001

THE NEWLYWEDS with their principal sponsors (from left) Kathy Santamaria, Carol Monteverde, Sessy Fernandez, Dolly Alvarez, Myrna Borromeo, Virgie Ramos, Joey Santamaria, Sonny Vistan, Tony Callejas and Vic Fernandez

Even St. Michael and the angels wept with joy

The Salud-Berroya wedding was one family affair wherein the groom got more emotional than the bride



HAPPY newlyweds Dennis and Liza Salud

(From page G1)

Bocarino's, the posh Italian restaurant at New World Renaissance Hotel. The groom's elder brother, Jack Salud, a talented painter, also sang during the dinner.

The wedding gown, designed by Inno Sotto, was a basic silk dress in white accented by little floral appliqués on the bodice and skirt. The newlyweds' mothers wore champagne pink satin gowns also by Sotto.

The principal sponsors were Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos, incumbent Nayong Pilipino executive director Myrna Borromeo (many are hoping that she will be retained in the post because of her exemplary performance on the job), banker Deogracias "Sonny" Vistan, Banco Filipino senior officer Antonio Callejas, Narcisa Fernandez, Sarah Peña, Mary Magdalene Alvarez, Purita Ong, Mariano Ong, Genaro Alvarez, Judge Lopez Peña and Victor Fernandez.

Dennis' brother, George, was best man while his pretty sisters Gina, Irene and Ollie and brother Jack were among the junior sponsors. Liza's sister, Baya Pulido, was matron of honor, and Baya's husband Bodie was a secondary sponsor. The little attendants were the groom's nieces Nami Salud, Arianne Lim, Nica Bianca and Parry Rodriguez, nephew Gino Rodriguez and the bride's niece Amaris Pulido.

Misty-eyed

At the reception it was the turn of the bride to get emotional. Liza was misty-eyed as she expressed her love for her father and her admiration for her mother for being a tower of strength during her dad's brief incarceration.

The guests dined on grilled salmon, marinated lamb cutlet and Black Angus beef. The wedding cake by Heny Sison was a three-tiered fondant creation decorated with pink lace and white and peach roses.

Less grandiose than most big weddings, the Salud-Berroya troth exuded the charming air of a family affair. Seen among the well-dressed well-wishers were the groom's cousins Bobbie, Rowie and Claudette Cordon, Trixie and Paul Mutuc, Mayen and Jun Delington, brothers-in-law Albit Rodriguez and Toti Hechanova, sister-in-law Kazue Salud, aunts Sylvia Lacson, Bechie Callejas, Girlie Estrella and Anabel Cordon, Liza's sprightly grandmother Petronila Garcia, and close friends Anne de Vera, Pam de Ocampo, Emily Roque, Tiffany Cabara, Ginger Avecedo, Jay Adriano and Roseanne Villamor.

Dennis and Liza are presently in Orlando, Florida, the last stop in their extended US honeymoon. When they return, he will resume work at JVC, while Liza will continue reading the news on Channel 21. But most of the time, I'm sure they'll be busy setting up their love nest—and planning for a baby. Congratulations!

THE NEWLYWEDS with Blanca and Parry Rodriguez, Gino Rodriguez, Nami Salud, Arianne Lim, Amaris Pulido and Nica Rodriguez

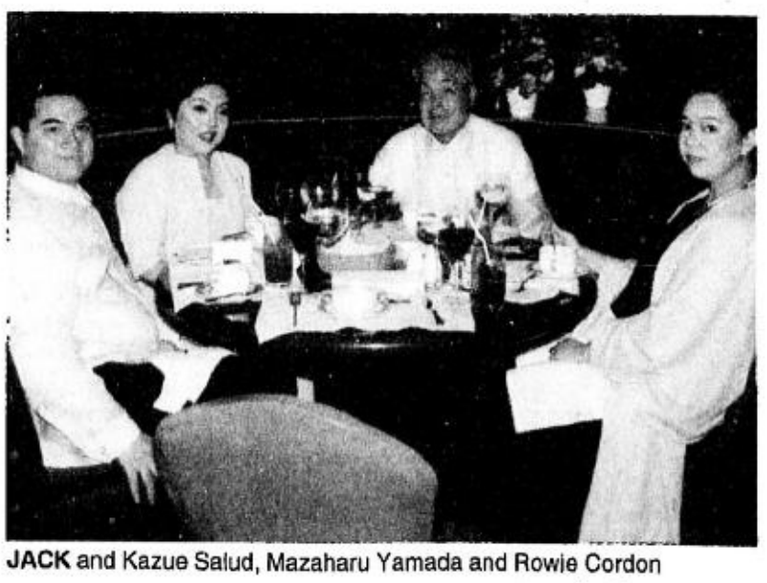
GIRLIE Rodis, Chit Salud, Maurice Arcache, Virgie Ramos, Myrna Borromeo and Susan Joven (seated)

FR. Thomas Naval, Kathy Marte, Emma Santigo, Dennis and Liza, Girlie Estrella, Sylvia Lacson and Anabel Cordon

THE NEWLYWEDS with Dolly Alvarez, Tom Ong, Carol Monteverde, Mercedes Alvarez and Petronila Garcia (bride's grandmother)

THE NEWLYWEDS with the bride's family: sister Baya Pulido, mom Leonor and dad Rey Berroya, brother-in-law Bodie Pulido and niece Amaris Pulido

KAZUE Salud and daughter Nami



JACK and Kazue Salud, Mazaharu Yamada and Rowie Cordon

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A colorful Oriental wedding

THE NEWLYWEDS with their parents

LITTLE girls in bright red, little boys in regal yellow

THE COUPLE with their principal sponsors

BY WALTER ANG

"*KULIT*!" was Noel's first impression when he met Bonita. On the other hand, she considered him as "*sungit*." Like classic love stories the world over, in this case, first impressions certainly did not last because one year later, Noel Georgson Lee asked Bonita Limketkai to marry him.

The daughter of Alfonso and Benita Limketkai, Bonita was born in the Philippines but raised in Toronto, Canada, and took up her MBA in Calgary. Noel, son of George and Concepcion Lee, on the other hand, grew up here and took up chemistry at the Ateneo.

They met at a family gathering through their matchmaker, lawyer Geronimo Sy. They exchanged wedding vows at the Manila Cathedral last January, with 24 children serving as attendants and flower girls. Principal sponsors were led by the former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara and Ms Gloria Angara. The bride wore a gown by Oliver Tolentino.

Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati with a theme of Oriental fusion. Colors used were rich, designs were elaborate and intricate. Chinese, Thai and even Indian cultures added to the festive mood, while rich colors, textures and decors filled up the ballroom.

Preludes and hints

Guests invited from all over the world received invitations wrapped in crisp parchment paper, akin to documents signed by a Chinese emperor.

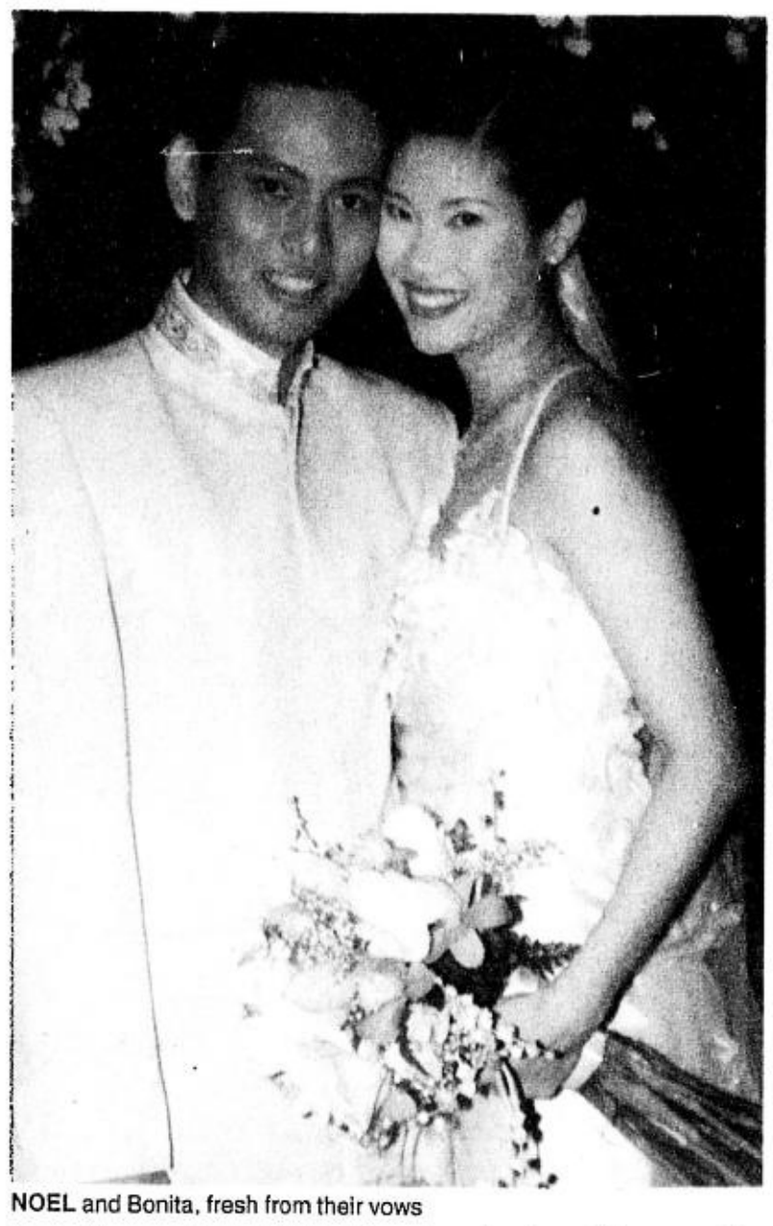
As guests from Europe, China, Taiwan, Singapore and other places from around the globe entered the ballroom, they were greeted with the music of a Chinese orchestra from the Philippine Institute of Quezon City led by conductor So Giao. Quite a visual treat was the floral centerpiece on each table arranged ikebana style by Junjun Hen.

To complete the Oriental fusion theme, a towering wedding cake with a dragon and a phoenix intertwined was created by Penk Ching and Shen Chen of The Pastry Bin. Even the décor used in the ballroom added to the atmosphere, thanks to the bride's trips to Shanghai several months before the wedding to purchase large scarlet obis, silk sashes and bright, red lanterns.

The large authentic lanterns hung magnificently in the middle of the ballroom, with a couple of smaller ones laid on the four corners of the dancing area. It was a fitting stage for the newlyweds' favorite children, swathed in bright red and yellow Chinese outfits, when they performed a cute number for the couple.

As the guests feasted on Chinese lauriat, they were serenaded with love songs by host Michael Sy Lim, who also assisted Bonita's sister Donna in creating the look and feel for the day. Donna had taken up fashion design at the FIT in New York.

Instead of the usual games for the bachelors and single ladies, a trivia game about the couple was conducted à la "Pera o Bayong" style, which amused everyone as the "contestants" rushed toward the letter of the correct choice. The day ended with the giving of little bells that guests could ring instead of the traditional tinkling of silverware on their glasses so they could prod the newlyweds to give each other a loving kiss.



NOEL and Bonita, fresh from their vows

THE GLOWING bride in her scarlet cheongsam.

Couples savor precious moments at Mandarin

(From page G8)

year for couples to get married because there is a double spring and a double month (April), which means an abundance of luck.

Wedding traditions have changed over the years but the revered bridal practice of wearing "something new, something old, something borrowed" remains, except perhaps for "something blue" as wedding experts—particularly florists, cake and fashion designers—prefer to do away with anything blue this year because the color was so common in the past three years.

"We're quite sick of blue," admitted Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers, a company that's becoming popular for simple but elegant floral designs. "The trend this year is the use of autumn colors—baby pink and ecru, among others," he added.

1816 Flowers uses 70 percent imported flowers like lilacs, lilies of the valley, spray roses, French tulips, wild orchids and calla lilies, which they get from regular suppliers in Australia, Holland, Ecuador, Colombia, South Africa, Germany, Taiwan and Indonesia.

JOSEPH Chau enlightens a couple on the metaphysical aspects of marriage.

1816 Flowers also offers linen, lanterns, candles, drapes—the works to complete the look of the table or venue.

For couples on a tight budget, "We can be very flexible when it comes to your budget and concept, but one thing we can guarantee is that the style will never be compromised," the flower expert assured. "And I really insist on seeing the bride before I make my proposal because the flowers that I will use should suit her personality," he added.

For wedding invitations—from the timeless classic to contemporary, thematic and stylized versions—Odette Huang of Select Expressions, which represents 15 social printers in the United States, said that today's invitations usually reflect the couple's personality. She said that slim, thick, vertical invitations accentuated with ribbons are the trend now.

As far as cake designs are concerned, Celine Almazora of Sweet Ideas said that couples nowadays prefer small edible cakes than big tiered ones, which are usually made of styrofoam.

Fairgoers were also treated to a live concert by the Ateneo Glee Club, known as the 92 AD, the Philo Music Ensemble and the Bernie Pasamba String Ensemble, which also served as previews of the unique repertoire for the church ceremony and wedding reception.

Mandarin Oriental, which offers different packages for sit-down and buffet menus, likewise gave a preview of their theme wedding banquets set amid the romance and splendor of the grand ballroom. Alu Suarez, the hotel's marketing manager, said theme weddings are becoming popular nowadays, particularly Chinese wedding banquets, which she attributed to the Filipinos' fondness for Chinese food. She added that young couples also prefer sitting with their friends in a round-table setting and usually choose to do away with the formal presidential table.

The fair culminated with "Velosos: A Return to Romance," a unique fashion show of real-life brides who modeled the creations of the Veloso family of fashion designers Malu Veloso and her children Letlet and Joey.

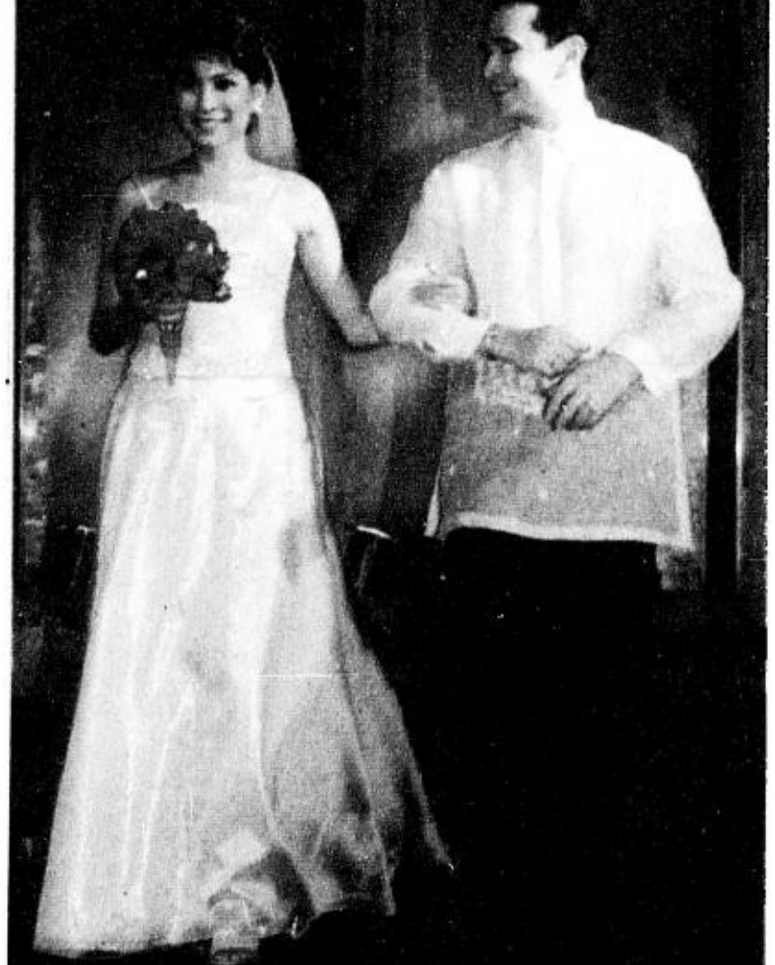
The fashion show, directed by Raymond Villanueva, featured ensembles for an entire wedding entourage.

Like Blancaflor, the Velosos, if they could have their way, would steer clear from anything blue this year. The Velosos' creations mirror unspeakable allure—beautiful coordinates of delicate but sweet hues of champagne, lilac, pale pink, sunset yellow and pistachio, among others.

"Romance," which has always been a Veloso trademark, "is definitely back," Malu said. Thus, the use of lace, embroidery, shantung and taffetas in their creations.

"We try to avoid trends and focus instead on the more classical and simple cut. We want a look that will complement rather than overwhelm the bride," Letlet said.

Through the help of these wedding experts, couples who attended the bridal fair were assured that their dream wedding would turn into a reality.



REAL-LIFE Veloso patrons Angela Romero-Salas and John Gaddi model the wedding ensemble creations of Letlet, Malu and Joey Veloso.

MEMBERS of the Philo Music String Ensemble serenade bridal fair guests.

Photographer Navasero to hold workshop

WELL-KNOWN photographer Mandy Navasero will hold her annual workshop on basic photography every Saturday from April 7-May 26.

The workshop will include lectures, demonstrations, audiovisual presentations and darkroom work. Guest speakers will be discussing topics that will help enhance photographs. On April 21, Prof. Eric Torres, curator of the Ateneo Art Gallery, poet and a noted art critic will speak on Composition. Weekly assignments are given to enable participants to familiarize themselves with the tools of their craft and to hone the skills they will be learning during the workshop. Participants will also be working in the dark room to learn processing and printing of photographs.

Among the topics to be covered during the workshop are: What is Photography? Films, Camera Operations; How to print, Darkroom procedure; Basic principles of light, lenses and glossary; Exposure, How to develop your eye; Photography as composition; Tips for aspiring photographers with accompanying weekly assignments on abstract photography, line, light and shadows, shapes and objects, photo documentation, and people shoot all with available lighting.

Equipment and materials to be used during the workshop are 135 camera format with interchangeable lens capability like 105 mm, 24 mm, or 28 mm; Kodak films Tri-X ASA 400; and Kodak photo processing chemicals like D-76 for films, Dektol for paper and fixer. Two black-and-white enlargers are available to participants for darkroom use.

Lectures will be held in the studio cum classroom. A teacher's aide will assist participants as they work in the darkroom. Lecturer Mandy Navasero is available for consultation by appointment.

At the end of the workshop, the participants' enlarged prints will be presented in a photo exhibit cum graduation at a public area.

The regular session will be suspended on Black Saturday. Instead, participants may join the Holy Week Phototrek to Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos Region visiting and photographing century-old churches like Paoay, Sarrat, St. Peter's Cathedral, Our Lady of Piat, Tumauini and San Pablo Church in Isabela, to mention a few. Pagudpud's Patapat Bridge and Ivory Beach, Cape Bojeador Lighthouse, and Vigan's Heritage Village. A visit to the home of current "reluctant" hero, Chavit Singson, has been arranged and he will be around to meet the photo-trekkers. This is scheduled on April 12-15 and is open to 20 participants. A lecture on architectural and travel photography will be conducted for one day with hands-on shoots on April 8, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

The four-day three-night Cagayan-Ilocos phototrek will cost P7,200 covering tourist bus fare, accommodation, three meals, tour guide and entrance to museums. Meanwhile, the photo workshop will cost P15,000 for registration fee. Call Navasero Communications at 522-1901/5185 or telefax 522-5189.

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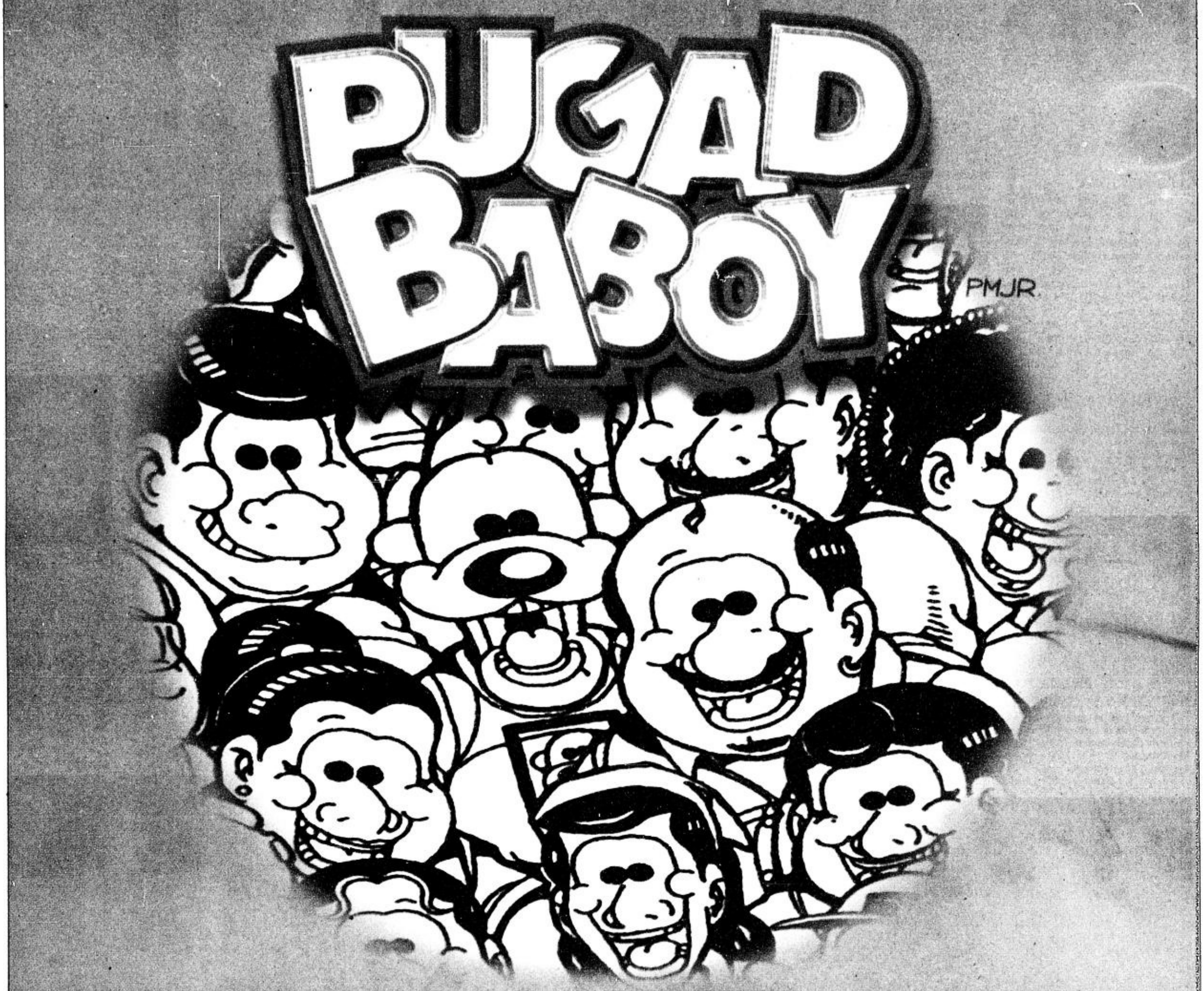

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Milestones

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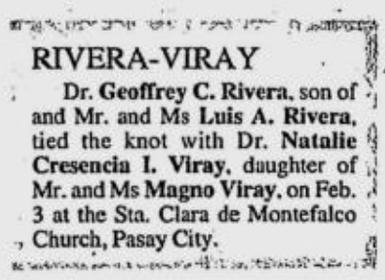
TITULAR-BASILAN

Lito Titular, son of **Venancio** and **Amelia Titular**, will exchange vows with **Vivian Basilan**, daughter of **Arsenio** and **Carnelia Basilan**, on March 31, at Our Lady of Peace Church in Lipa City. Reception will follow at Bluroze Farms, Lodlod, Lipa City.

ATO-MALIGSA

Enrico Makiling Ato, son of **Jose Sr.** and **Florencia Makiling Ato**, tied the knot with **Cherry Mondonedo Maligsa**, daughter of **Cresencio Luarez Maligsa** and **Gloria Mondonedo**, on Dec. 23 at the Sto. Niño Shrine, Libertad, Butuan City. Reception followed at Dottie's Place Hotel and Restaurant.

Minda Macalam created a classic white off-shoulder gown made of silk shantung for the bride.



RIVERA-VIRAY

Dr. **Geoffrey C. Rivera**, son of and Mr. and Ms **Luis A. Rivera**, tied the knot with Dr. **Natalie Cresencia I. Viray**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Magno Viray**, on Feb. 3 at the Sta. Clara de Montefalco Church, Pasay City.

RODRIGUEZ-ALEJO

Iya Alejo, daughter of Engineer **Casiano** and **Pacita Alejo**, tied the knot yesterday with **PJ Rodriguez**, son of **Domiciano** and **Ma. Corazon Rodriguez**, at San Agustin Chapel, Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Reception followed at Mandarin Oriental Manila.

The bride wore a **Toby Albrando** creation in *piña* patterned after a European silhouette. The strapless gown with heavily embroidered skirt was studded with beads and Swarovski stones.

YATCO-ABALOS

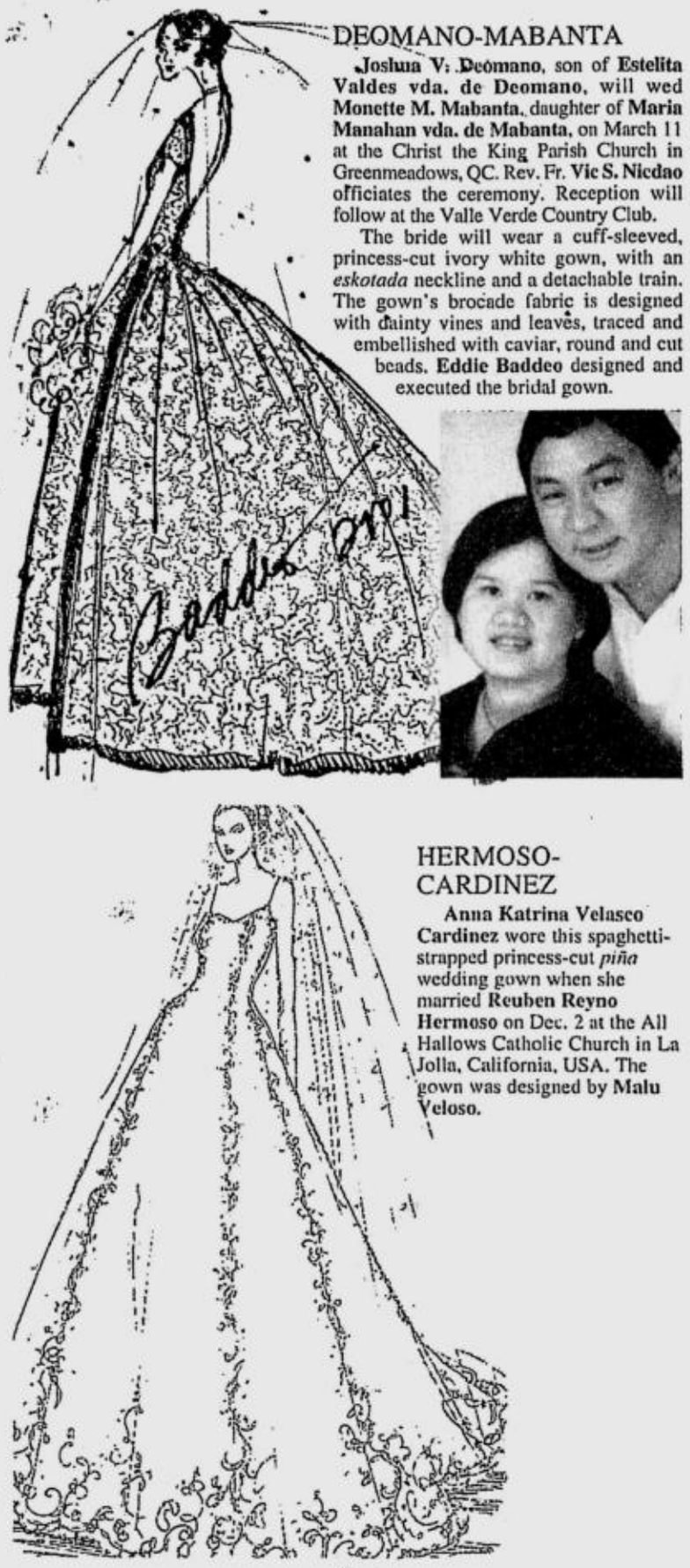
Jose Francisco Ruben P. Yatco and **Mary Joy C. Abalos** tied the knot on Dec. 21 at the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Biñan, Laguna. Reception followed at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

AGUSTIN-SANTOS

Garner Ted Agustin and Dr. **Ma. Teresa Santos** wed on Dec. 28 at the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Makati City, in ceremonies officiated by Rev. Fr. **Dominador Besares**, OSA. The bride is the daughter of Col. **Leonardo** and **Modesta Santos**, while the groom is the son of Engineer **John** and Dr. **Carlinda Agustin**. The bridal gown and barong tagalog were designed by **Dessie Aquino** of San Pablo, Laguna. Reception followed at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

MITERIA GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Nito and **Irene Miteria** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 2 at the old Sta. Ana Church where they also exchanged their vows in 1950. Reception was held at the roofdeck of the City Garden Hotel, Makati City. Shown with the couple are their children **Myrna Miteria-Lucero**, **Julie Miteria**, **Cynthia Miteria-Lim** and **Abet Miteria**.



DEOMANO-MABANTA

Joshua V. Deomano, son of **Estelita Valdes vda. de Deomano**, will wed **Monette M. Mabanta**, daughter of **Maria Manahan vda. de Mabanta**, on March 11 at the Christ the King Parish Church in Greenmeadows, QC. Rev. Fr. **Vic S. Nicdao** officiates the ceremony. Reception will follow at the Valle Verde Country Club.

The bride will wear a cuff-sleeved, princess-cut ivory white gown, with an *eskotada* neckline and a detachable train. The gown's brocade fabric is designed with dainty vines and leaves, traced and embellished with caviar, round and cut beads. **Eddie Baddeo** designed and executed the bridal gown.

HERMOSO-CARDINEZ

Anna Katrina Velasco Cardinez wore this spaghetti-strapped princess-cut *piña* wedding gown when she married **Reuben Reyno Hermoso** on Dec. 2 at the All Hallows Catholic Church in La Jolla, California, USA. The gown was designed by **Malu Veloso**.

PILANTE-TUBIGAN

Neil J. Pilante, son of **Luz vda. de Pilante**, and **Mhalou A. Tubigan**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Aquilino Tubigan**, will tie the knot today at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila.

The bride will wear an **Armando Fabia** creation.

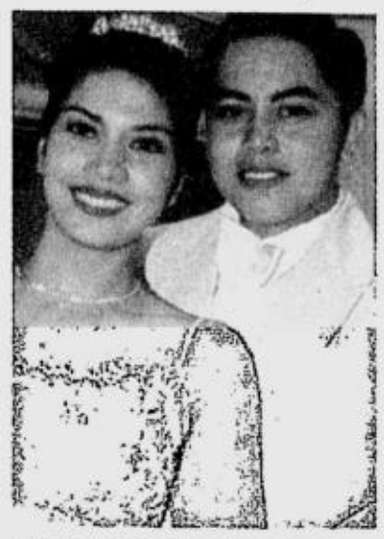
CAPARROS-CHUA

Jojo Caparros, son of **Emeniano** (deceased) and **Editha Caparros**, wed **Marjorie Chua**, daughter of **Ramon Sr.** and **Mary Chua**, on Feb. 10 at the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Church, QC. Reception was held at the Peach Toppings & Noodle Restaurant.

DIZON-PRILA

Jose Mari Garchitorena Dizon, son of **Cristina Garchitorena**, tied the knot with **Sharon Bombase Prila**, daughter of **Bernardo Sr.** and **Susan Bombase Prila**, on Dec. 18 at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church. Reception followed at the Doña Emelina Hall, Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City.

The bride wore a gown designed by **Jimbo Apostol**. Photographer was **Ronnie Vargas** of Swayne's Foto Arts.



TRAJANO-GONZALEZ

Arlene B. Gonzalez, daughter of **Silvestre** and **Anita Gonzalez**, married **Emmanuel Trajano**, on Dec. 23 at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The bride wore a spaghetti-strapped gown in ice-pink duchesse satin with silver and white corded lace and beaded with rose-pink pearls, silver sugar beads and transparent sequins. It was designed by **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**.

BRIONES DEBUT

Catherine Jane and **Cristine Gayle S. Briones**, twin daughters of **Romulo** and **Consuelo Briones**, celebrated their 18th birthday on March 3 at the Ballroom 2 of The New Albergus Inc., Capitol Hills, Diliman, QC. They are sophomores at University of Sto. Tomas.

The debutantes wore Cinderella-inspired gowns in powder lilac crystalline organza, with silver cut glass, bugle beads and Swarovski pearls. **Fe C. Fabros** created the gowns.

TOPACIO DEBUT

Pamela Kristine M. Topacio, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Edilberto Topacio**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Feb. 3 at the Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Pamela is a freshman at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

ANGELES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Bienvenido Angeles Jr. and **Emilflor Cruz-Angeles** of Marikina City celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Jan. 3. After the renewal of vows, friends and relatives were treated to a dinner party held at CVJ Reception Hall in Marikina. Shown with the couple are their children **Cathy**, **Joanne** and **Jerick**.

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College marks Women's Day with concert, lecture and bazaar

MIRIAM College is celebrating Women's Festival 2 until March 9. Tomorrow at 6 p.m., "The Purple Concert" will be held at the Gazebo, featuring Sitting Lila, the Miriam College Liturgical Choir, social work majors and the MC High School Glee Club.

College dean Aurora de Dios and Prof. Tesa de Vela will coordinate the First Women Leader's Conference at the mini theater from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. On March 7, "A Solidarity Night" at the Gazebo follows.

The school celebrates International Women's Day on March 8, with a special liturgical celebration at the college chapel at 12 nn, and Women's Day mobilization in Mendiola at 1 p.m.

There will also be a bazaar for and by women aptly billed "Purple Tiangge" at the college Upper Lanai until March 9.

The Women's Festival started on Feb. 22. Among the activities that had been held in college include a lecture series on "Women and the Urban Poor Agenda," alternative classes in grade school and high school homerooms, and a forum/workshop with the mothers of Community Extension Services Office (Ceso). Ceso is Miriam College's link to underprivileged communities around the school.

Alternative activities included a "Women's Banner Painting Contest," a "Women's Exhibit on Art and History," "Paligsahan sa Biglang Talumpati" (extemporaneous speech contest), a fashion show billed "Kababaihan sa Iba't-Ibang Larangan," "Tagisan ng Talino: Kababaihan sa Kasaysayan at Kontemporaryong Panahon" and a film festival on women, "Iba't-Ibang Mukha ng Buhay Kababaihan."

NFWCP marks 80th year at Manila Hotel

CIVIC CIRCLE

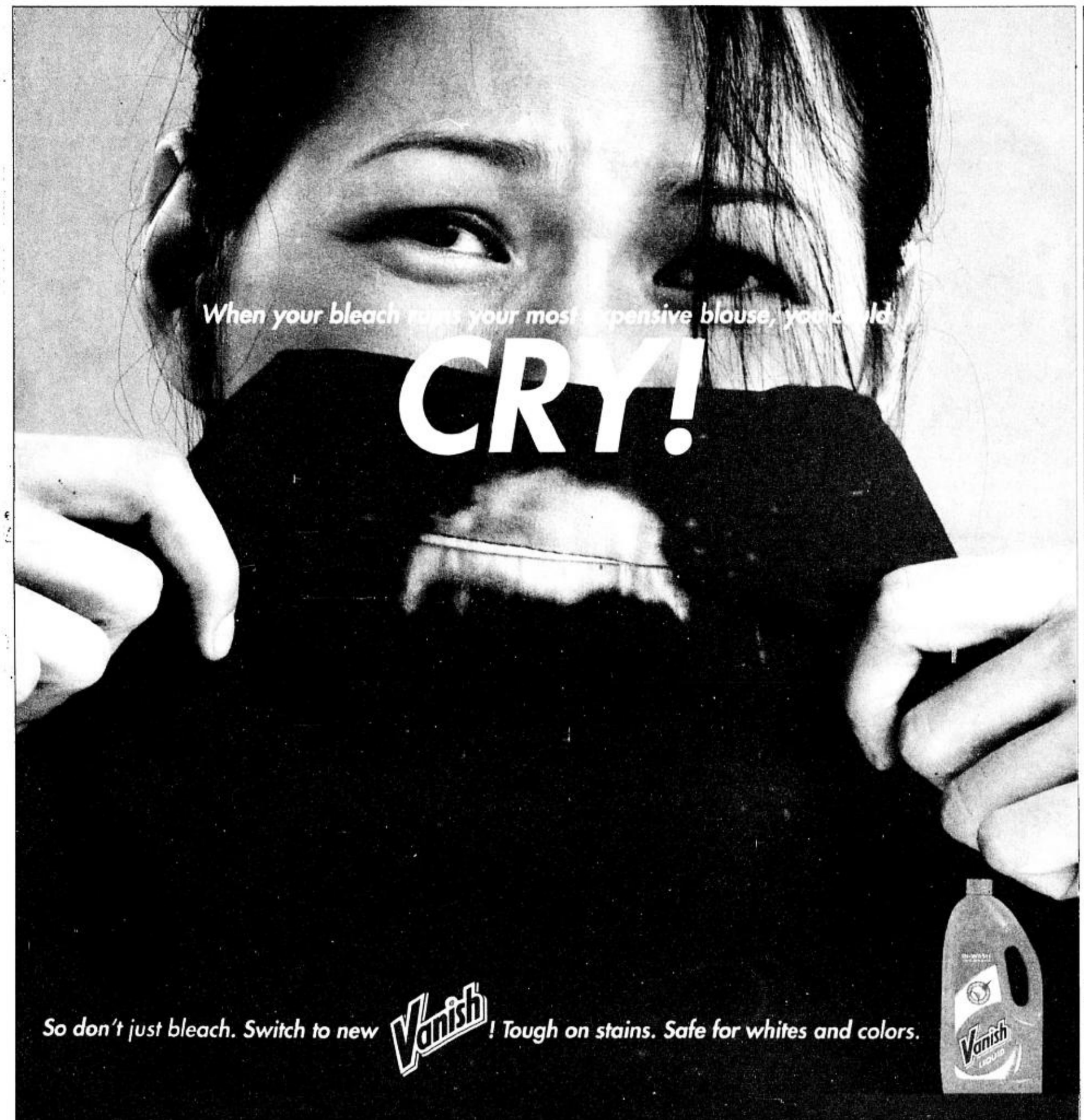
THE NATIONAL Federation of Women's Clubs of the Phils. will celebrate its 80th year tomorrow at the Manila Hotel, Rizal Park, Manila. Dr. Minerva G. Laudico, former president and now adviser of the NFWC, is the guest speaker, while Dr. Emilio T. Yap is the special guest.

Its officers are: Concordia M. Pascual, president; Ester T. Sta. Ana, first vice president; Alberta "Moleng" O. Quinto, second vice president; Olive P. Tiu, third vice president, Estrelita C. Ruiz, secretary; Edna M. Dulay, assistant secretary; Evelyn V. Vallido, treasurer; Luz Moya Borja, assistant treasurer, Ditas C. Remulla, PRO; Juanita C. Bernabe, Eulalia G. Flores, Leonora B. Guinid, Adelaida DC. Lagumbay, Dominga R. Narag and Charito L. Planas, board members; Julita C. Benedicto, Leonarda N. Camacho, Minerva G. Laudico, Lourdes C. Quezon, Adelina S. Rodriguez, Rosario R. Villar, advisers.

ADELYNE Dumapong, third-prize winner in the recently concluded Paralympics XI held in Sydney, Australia, pays a victory courtesy call on the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons chair Dulce Q. Saguisag and NCWDP director Gloria B. Galvez. Dumapong is accompanied by Mike Barredo, president of Philspada, and her coach Nestor Honey Boy Sajota.

AWARD. Manhattanville College honored alumna Doris Magsaysay-Ho ('73) with its 2000 Women's Leadership Award at a gala on Oct. 17, 2000 at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. The black-tie dinner, chaired annually by alumna Josie Cruz Natori ('68), honors women who are making a difference in the world, and who are role models for students and future generations of women. Washington SyCip presented the award to Ho.

ANNIVERSARY. Antonio V. Martel Jr., president and CEO of Harrison Plaza and chair of the board of Marsteel Consolidated Inc., and his wife Belen Lovina Ticzon-Martel, recently celebrated their wedding anniversary with a Mass at the St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue in New York City, where the wedding of the couple was officiated by Fr. William Scafidi many years ago.



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PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Couples savor precious moments at Mandarin

BY MARIA CRISTINA G. SANTOS

ALTAR-BOUND couples were treated to a unique experience as they planned the most romantic and unforgettable wedding possible during Mandarin Oriental Manila's "Precious Moments 3," a recent whole-day bridal fair, which featured the arbiters of weddings.

Over 70 exhibitors from various fields showcased the finest of wedding products and services—bridal specialty shops, event planners and organizers, cake designers, florists, novelty gifts and souvenir shops, home furniture and accessories shops, invitations and stationery shops, jewelers, musicians and entertainers, photo and video studios and wine stores—in the affair organized by the hotel together with Events by Gigi Bautista and Associates.

Guests of honor and models Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Rinby Chua formally opened the fair, which was highlighted by a talk given by international feng shui expert Joseph Chau.

Future brides and their grooms lined up, patiently waiting for their turn to consult Chau, who advised them on the most auspicious dates to tie the knot and the "metaphysical aspects of maintaining harmony and balance in marriage."

Chau stressed the importance of choosing the right partner to attain harmony and prosperity in marriage. According to him, this is the best

COUPLES/ p.G4

ANNA Marie Zablan (extreme left), director of banquet sales, and Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental Manila's general manager, welcome "Precious Moments 3" guests of honors Rinby Chua, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

The I-Ching says: Prosperity beyond our wildest dreams under GMA

By George Sison

As the 14th president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo corresponds to the 14th hexagram, which promises abundance like we have never seen before

MANY people are wondering and/or apprehensive about how President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will do as the 14th president of the Republic of the Philippines. This article should put to rest any fears that she may not measure up to the highest expectations of many.

In 1998, in one of the major weekly magazines and based on the ancient Chinese oracle, the I-Ching, I talked about how, after President Joseph Estrada's term, which falls under the hexagram No. 13, "Fellowship with Man," there will be prosperity beyond our wildest dreams, since the 14th Philippine president represents the hexagram "Possession in Great Measure." Surely, I said, the 13th president will have contributed in a unique and immeasurable way to its foundation.

The I-Ching also illustrates an added perspective of presidents and their contributions to the country, from President Aguinaldo to President Arroyo, based on the Law of Synchronicity.

The first was Emilio Aguinaldo, who initiated and created the Philippine Republic; hence the first hexagram of the I-Ching is titled "The Creative."

The second hexagram is called "The Receptive," and coincides with second President Manuel L. Quezon's presidency. Quezon was receptive to the idea of being in the United States as president in exile.

The third, Jose Laurel Sr., took office under the Japanese regime. His presidency overlapped with that of Quezon, who was then in the US. The third hexagram is "Difficulty in the Beginning." It is a well-known fact that Laurel faced many difficulties during the administration.

The fourth hexagram, "Youthful Inexperience," explains President Sergio Osmeña's position in the postwar republic. He was, in a manner of speaking, really starting anew.

The fifth was Manuel Roxas, and the fifth hexagram is "Waiting for Nourishment." President Roxas was nursing the country to wellness. He received ample assistance and nourishment from the US government.

"Difficulty Leading to Harmony" is the sixth hexagram. Elpidio Quirino, the sixth president, initiated the idea of land reform as a means of bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

President Ramon Magsaysay followed Quirino under hexagram No. 7, "The Army." Magsaysay was defense secretary before he became president. He settled the Hukbalahap problem. The hexagram also means gathering forces for strength.

President Carlos Garcia falls under the eighth hexagram, "Holding Together." This was surely his major concern after the sudden and tragic demise of Magsaysay in a plane crash. President Garcia not only had to hold things together but also conceived the "Buy Filipino First" slogan to bring prosperity to the country. The Chinese associate the No. 8 to prosperity.

The "Taming Power of the Small" is the ninth hexagram. Diosdado Macapagal, the poor boy from Lubao, Pampanga, was elected ninth president. He implemented the agrarian land reform initiated by Quirino.

President Ferdinand Marcos, the 10th president, fell under the 10th hexagram, "Treading," which means trying to keep afloat to prevent from drowning. The Philippine economy truly sank to historical lows and the Filipinos had to revolt to keep from drowning in its own quagmire.

"Peace" is the title of the 11th hexagram. The 11th president was Corazon Aquino. The main event during her leadership was a People Power revolution, which resulted in democracy restored peacefully.

The 12th president, Fidel Ramos, steadied the ship of state under the 12th hexagram, "Keeping Still," or being steadfast, thus augmenting the gains attained after the peaceful revolution.

The 13th hexagram is "Fellowship with Men." The president was Joseph Estrada. This hexagram suggests the unification of all levels of society from the grass roots up. Although President Estrada ended up pitting the rich against the poor, he served as a catalyst to bring together all sectors of society to Edsa and thus brought about People Power II.

Note that after every revolution the president that follows carries a name that begins with A and ends with O: Aguinaldo ("The Creative"), Aquino ["Peace"), Arroyo ("Possession in Great Measure).

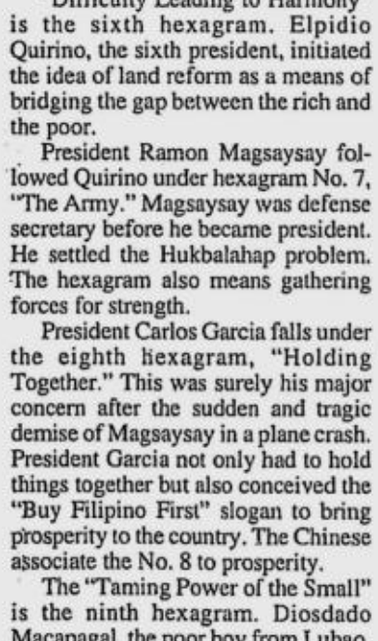
Abundance

The 14th hexagram promises abundance like we have never seen before. It is called "Possession in Great Measure." The president is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the newly installed head of the republic. The Biblical quote usually associated with this hexagram is "The Lord Thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase and in all the works of thine hands, therefore, thou shalt surely rejoice," (Deuteronomy 16:15). This metaphysically means that whatever is done in the context of the 14th hexagram will excel in a magnificent way.

Even from a strictly political point of view, the above seems to be a most likely scenario. It is a well-known fact that President Arroyo has had her eye on the presidency in the year 2004. She has just been given the greatest opportunity to prove how capable she is to be president in 2004-2010.

The people have provided her with more than three years to campaign "by example" for that term. There is no reason, therefore, to believe that she would be anything less than a good president or, at the very least, an outstanding CEO in the next three years and five months.

Let us, therefore, give her a chance to demonstrate her intentions and capabilities to govern. She has said that she is grateful for this gift that the people have given her. However, the best thank-you note she can give is to prove to the country what the 14th hexagram suggests: to lift up the people from the shackles of poverty to the comfort and rejoicing of having possession (peace, prosperity, unity, great accomplishments and honor) in great measure. And so it is!



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

The author is the founder of the Temple of Prayer, Peace and Prosperity (TOPPP) and an ordained minister of the Community Church of New Thought in Arizona, USA He's also known by many as composer, poet-painter, social columnist, political-detainee, TV host, restaurateur, gallery owner and astrologer. He predicted the declaration of martial law in 1972.

On Jan. 7, 1986, at one of his guesting stints on the TV talk show "Two for the Road," he announced there was going to be a revolution of a different kind. Five weeks later, the first People Power uprising occurred.

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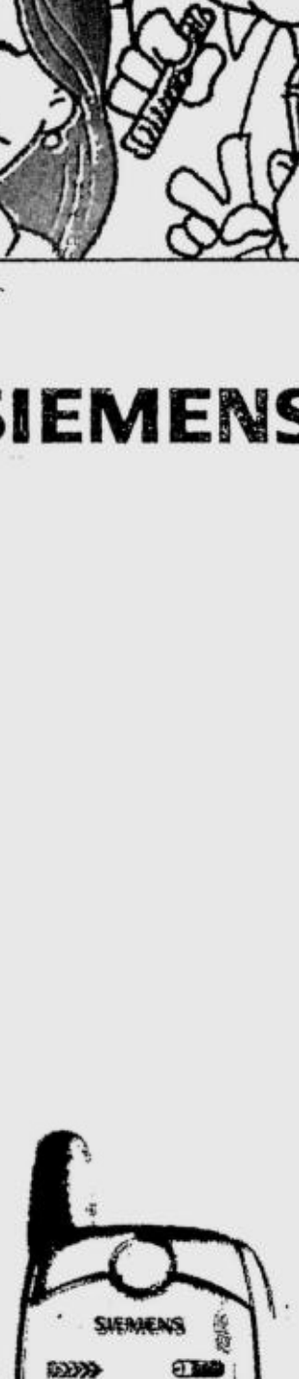
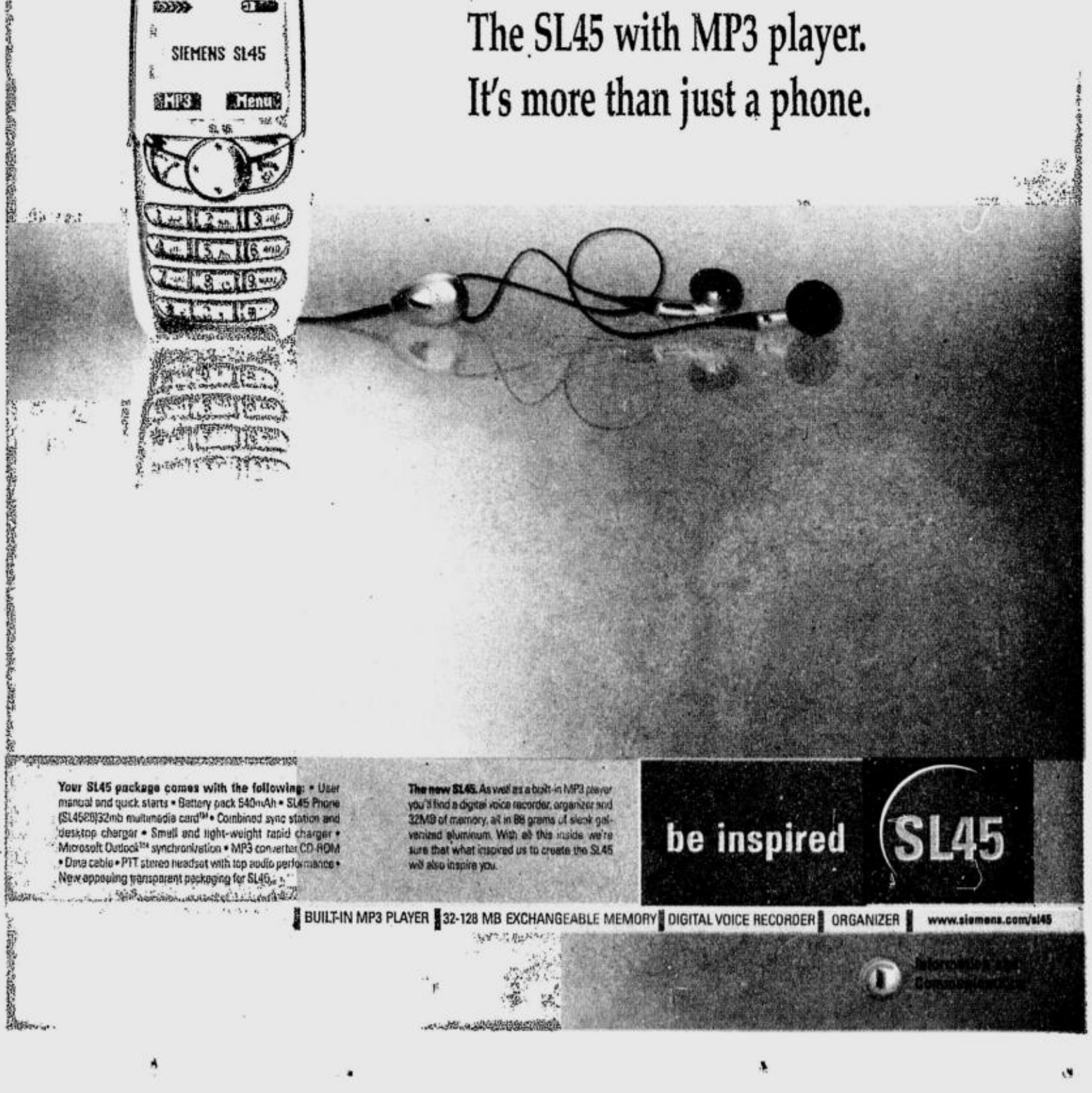


The SL45 with MP3 player.
It's more than just a phone.



Your SL45 package comes with the following: • User manual and quick starts • Battery pack 540mAh • SL45 Phone (SL45©)32mb multimedia card™ • Combined sync station and desktop charger • Small and light-weight rapid charger • Microsoft Outlook™ synchronization • MP3 converter CD-ROM • Data cable • PTT stereo headset with top audio performance • New appealing transparent packaging for SL45

The new SL45. As well as a built-in MP3 player you'll find a digital voice recorder, organizer and 32MB of memory, all in 88 grams of sleek galvanized aluminum. With all this inside we're sure that what inspired us to create the SL45 will also inspire you.

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1ST BIRTHDAYS

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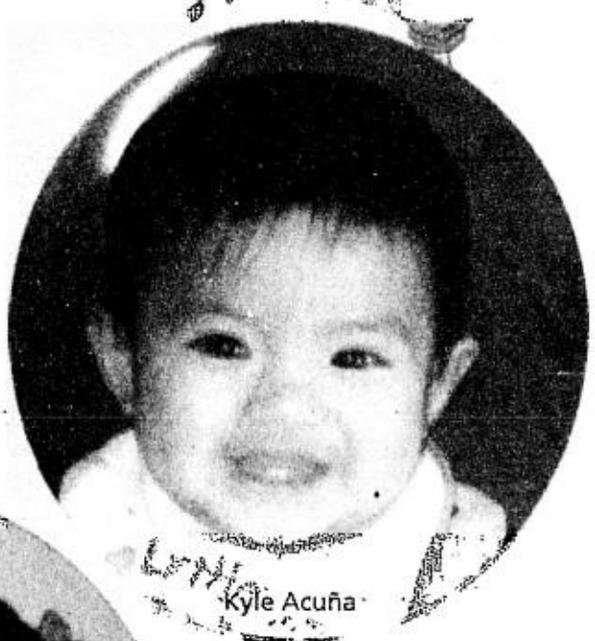
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JUSTICE Jose C. Vitug, Justice Sabino R. de Leon Jr., Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., PDI chair Marixi Prieto, former PDI president Bienvenido Pangilinan, PDI publisher Isagani Yambot, Justice Artemio Panganiban, Pat Garcia, Macario Rufino, Dennis Valdes and Paolo Prieto

PDI editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Marixi Prieto, Chief Justice Davide with wife Virginia Davide, Isagani Yambot, PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

HILARIO DAVIDE JR.

Honoring His Honor

FOR THE FIRST time in its tradition of honoring a citizen for "making the most positive impact... on the life of the nation, the INQUIRER threw in an intimate dinner for Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., winner of the INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year award.

"I sought none of this—not the honor, not the attention, not the awards," said Davide in his acceptance speech before INQUIRER executives, editors and columnists. "Yet I feel so blessed in my life that I perform my duties to the best of my abilities in a great part as a way of thanking the Creator for everything he has given me."

He then quoted from the Scriptures, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Luke 12:48).

His Honor brought his wife, Virginia P. Davide, and his fellow justices of the Supreme Court. Before and after the dinner, his fans among the INQUIRER employees asked to be photographed with the good judge, whose credibility and popularity have zoomed past those of current public officials in recent social surveys.

CHIEF Justice Davide, Chnit and Carlos Rufino and Marixi Prieto

CHIEF Justice Davide with Amando Doronila

CARLOS Rufino and Isagani Yambot

JUSTICE Artemio Panganiban, Jun Bandayrel, and Macario Rufino

CHIEF Justice Davide, Rina Jimenez David, Joey Nolasco, Abel Ulanday, Celine Madamba

PHILIP and Sandy Romualdez with their baby and Ms Virginia Davide

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General Electric, one of the world's largest companies and with presence in the Philippines in the following industries: Appliances, Lighting, Medical Systems, Power Systems, Motors & Industrial Systems, Aircraft Engines, Plastics, Transportation Systems, and Information Services, is currently looking to fill professional openings in Medical Systems and Motors & Industrial Systems.

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SENIOR REGIONAL SALES AND APPLICATIONS MANAGER, GE Meters

He will provide sales support to the Regional Distribution network including new electronics metering applications engineering. He will also provide industry and market competitive development, sales and technical support. He will build strong relationships with customers, identify and develop new markets to support the long term business growth. He will conduct technical and product presentations for private utilities and electric cooperatives.

Between 26 to 32 years old with a Degree in Electrical Engineering or Electronics and Communications Engineering. Minimum of 5 years relevant sales experience in transmission and delivery equipment catering to the electric utilities and/or electronics industry. Must have a proven track record in sales and marketing or in managing own business. Preferably with some experience in the field of market research, advertising and sales promotion. Excellent communication, presentation and interpersonal skills. Willing to travel, self-motivated and has a passion for excellence. Knowledge of Chinese Mandarin language would be an advantage.

MANUFACTURING ENGINEER, GE Meters

He must be a licensed Electronics and Communications Engineer, not be over 30 years old, and with at least 3-5 years experience in handling/operating any electrical/electronics laboratory test instruments, preferably in the electronics industry. He must be knowledgeable in digital/linear design microprocessor, PLC, analog electronics and the like. Experience in process control, ISO documentation/implementation and environmental health and safety management will be a distinct advantage.

IT PROGRAMS MANAGER, GE Meters

He will plan, lead, monitor and execute IT programs/systems implementation. He will actively participate in the development of guidelines, standards and procedures to ensure the productive and effective use of Information Technology. He is expected to plan and implement infrastructure upgrade and expansion. He will work with third-party suppliers to ensure timely delivery, quality and cost criteria of IT equipment and services. He will coordinate the needs of eBusiness activities.

He must be a graduate of Computer Science, with at least 6 years experience in application development, business analysis and project management. Has a strong and broad understanding of current IT technologies and development life cycles. Has a strong organizational and interpersonal skills with the ability to multi-task effectively. With excellent people management, communication and negotiation skills. Has a strong personal drive, high sense of achievement and passion for excellence.

SERVICE ENGINEER, GE Medical Systems

He will be responsible for the installation, maintenance and commissioning of various diagnostic imaging equipment/systems.

He must be a licensed Electronics and Communications Engineer, not over 30 years old and must have at least two (2) years experience in servicing CT Scanners, MRI systems, X-ray systems, nuclear medicines and other diagnostic imaging equipment.

The Rewards

We offer ample opportunities for people to grow with the company. A competitive remuneration package awaits the successful candidate.

To Apply

Submit personally, by mail, fax or e-mail, your comprehensive resumé, with your latest 2" x 2" picture and expected salary/benefits package, no later than March 9, 2001 to:

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General Electric Philippines, Inc.
2291 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension
1231 Makati City
Fax No.: (632) 816-0423
E-mail: EvelynJulieta.Obien@geasn.ge.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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Based in the Philippines

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- Must be a fully qualified accountant
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- Capable of operating as an individual but also a good team player.
- Preferably with experience of working with one of the Big 5 Firms—Ernst and Young, Price Waterhouse etc.
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Salcedo Village, Makati

Tel. No.: 02 889-6117
Fax No.: 02 889-6119
E-mail: jpaule@airspan.com

LG Systems Phils., Inc.

A Korean multinational company engaged in IT business worldwide is currently looking for high caliber professionals in the IT field to perform a significant function in its system development projects with government and private institutions in the Philippines and abroad.

SYSTEMS ANALYST/DESIGNER

Job Description
- System analysis and design
- Training and Management of programmers

Mandatory Skills (which are related to client/server based environments as below:)

Development tool	:	Powerbuilder and/or Visual Basic
Database (RDBMS)	:	Sybase and/or Oracle
Case tool	:	System Architect or any case tool

Requirements
- must be at least a university graduate with degree in IT and/or other related fields
- minimum of five (5) years working experience in the IT field
- not more than 35 years old
- must be well experienced in development, implementation and operation in a client/server environment project for whole system life cycle
- must have through knowledge and direct exposure in system development methodology such as Method/i, Information Engineering Methodology, or any other system development methodology.
- has good management and leadership skills in handling Computerized system analysis/design.

PROGRAMMER/S

Job Description
- Program coding and documentation
- Test data preparation
- Training of fusers

Mandatory Skills (which are related to client/server based environments as below:)

Development tool	:	Visual Basic
Database (RDBMS)	:	Sybase and/or Oracle

Preferable Skills

Middleware
POS (Point of Sales) S/W
Imaging S/W
Workflow S/W
Groupware S/W
Testing Plan/Tool

Requirements
- must be at least a university graduate with degree in IT and/or other related fields
- minimum of two (2) years working experience in the IT field
- not more than 30 years old
- must be well experienced in the development, implementation and operation in a client/server environment project.

A competitive compensation and remuneration package awaits successful applicants.

Interested applicants may e-mail their application and comprehensive resumé to recruitph@lgeds.lg.co.kr.
Or fax to +63-2-927-1934 c/o Pinky Barrozo / LG Systems Philippines, Inc.

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If you think you are one of the **BEST** at your level, submit curriculum vitaé, descriptive of projects done, to Ms. Ping Restor, Ground Floor A&M Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Applications may also be sent to **alserafica@idealogy.ph** or faxed to 951-7106. For further inquiries, call 427-4363 or (0917)460-9955.

Previous candidates need not apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be processsed.

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LOGISTICS MANAGER

THE POSITION:
Reporting to the Corporate Logistics Director, the work includes planning, development, management and control of transportation logistics, material control, production, procurement and warehousing to ensure raw materials and finished goods are in the right place and time.

THE CANDIDATE:
The candidate must be a bachelor's degree holder with masteral units. With a minimum of 5 years experience in stock and transport logistics management accompanied with 2 years managerial experience in the same capacity. Experience should include knowledge in transportation, warehousing, import/export, customs clearance, supply chain and Logistics IT solutions systems. Must have strong leadership and management skills, sound problem-solving skills and excellent oral and written communication skills.

PARALEGAL OFFICER

THE POSITION:
A junior supervisory position in the Company which is based in one of the Company's affiliate off-shore. The job includes researching data such as legal articles, codes and documents to support preparation of legal proceedings, formulation of defense and initiation of legal actions. Prepares legal documents like pleadings, affidavits, appeals, wills and contracts.

THE CANDIDATE:
A certified law practitioner with minimum of 5 years experience in law practice gained from a multinational company. Knowledge and experience should include, but not limited to, administration, management, accounting, personnel and human resources. With excellent oral and written communication, presentation and comprehension skills. Can deal with all types/levels of people. Willing to travel worldwide offices.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER MANAGER

THE POSITION:
Reporting to the General Manager, the work includes planning and overseeing equipment layout, workflow, utilization of facilities and accident prevention measures to maintain efficient and safe utilization of plant facilities.Develops training programs to promote efficient worker utilization.

THE CANDIDATE:
The candidate must be a graduate of B.S. Industrial Engineering. With 5 years work experience in all I.E. procedures preferably gained from a labor-intensive multinational garment manufacturing company. Must possess excellent problem identification, problem solving and systems evaluation skills. Must be willing to travel locally and internationally.

The successful candidates may look forward to a competitive compensation package and a whole new experience being with the leader in garment manufacturing. Interested persons may send their resumes not later than March 8, 2001. For faster reply, e-mail your resume in MS Word format.

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Information Technology Group - Applications C

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You will be involved in the development of a range of innovative products and services. This covers co-ordinating and liaising with various departments on requirements, programming and design, systems implementation and project management. There will be opportunities for regional travel for short-term assignment in the Asia Pacific region.

Requirements:
- Experience in one or more of the following areas:
  - Retail and investment banking applications such as Savings & Current Account, Credit Card - Cardpac
  - MVS or OS/390, COBOL, CICS and DB2 experience
  - Win NT, Unix, C/C++, Java, PowerBuilder and Visual Basic

Candidates with extensive years of experience will be considered for senior positions

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A prestigious and leading research agency affiliated with the largest customized research organization in the world invites aggressive and self-motivated individual to fill the following post:

SENIOR RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

- ✓ Has working experience in the selection and application of appropriate market research techniques, and must demonstrate a good understanding of their strategic and commercial implications.
- ✓ Capable of dealing with corporate clients and is confident to analyze and present research results to senior management.
- ✓ Natural team player, possess leadership and coordinating skills in implementing research projects (i.e., working with support groups from other units of the company).
- ✓ Has 3-4 years working experience doing or coordinating researches—from another research agency, an ad agency, business or economic think-tanks; or from using market research at the client-user side.
- ✓ Graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing.
- ✓ Adept with data, excellent writing and communication skills.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- ✓ Not more than 25 years old, graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing. Fresh graduates are welcome.
- ✓ Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing, and analysis).
- ✓ Adept with data, analytical, excellent writing and communications skills.

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resource Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER - RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog corner Kanlaon Streets
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: inquire@main.psrcri.com.ph

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Must have practical experience and able to teach any of the following areas:
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- Networking – Basic and advanced networking, networking design, setup, administration

Must be Vendor certified or at least be able to pass certification exams from: Microsoft, Sun, IBM, IGeneration, Oracle, IPlanet, RedHat Linux, Adobe, Cisco, Ericsson

Successful applicants may look forward to:
- Excellent compensation package
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP

A multisectoral group of stakeholders consisting of private business, nongovernmental organizations and institutions is interested in promoting cleaner air for the Metro Manila air shed. We are looking to recruit an Executive Director to manage and operate the Clean Air Partnership.

The Executive Director should be a proven self-starter with good experience in developing, delivering, and coordinating awareness raising campaigns. The selected individual will:

- act as the official representative of the Partnership in dealing with other agencies, organizations and/or groups and has primé responsibility over a Secretariat;
- be responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating campaigns, events, activities and programs that are approved by the Partnership;
- address, evaluate, and establish the various sources of funding and revenues as may be required for operations;
- ensure coordination between the Partnership and external agencies, organizations and/or groups and among the Partners themselves; and
- prepare periodic reports on all activities to the Partnership.

The position will initially be for a 1-year period under a contract funded by the Asian Development Bank. Renewal will depend upon the performance of the selected incumbent.

Applicants should send biodata and other supporting information to: **Mr. Charles M. Melhuish**, Infrastructure, Energy and Financial Sectors Department (East), Asian Development Bank, P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila or email cmelhuish@adb.org, tel. no.: 632-6803, fax no.: 632-6318.

MANAGERIAL

The world's largest quick service restaurant continues to expand...and needs top caliber people for the following positions.

Code: REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR
We are seeking an individual with at least 5 years experience as Real Estate Manager. Candidate must be aggressive, must have excellent managerial and communication skills, and preferably with experience in a multinational company.

Code: REAL ESTATE OFFICERS
Candidate must be an experienced professional who will be responsible for site selection and lease and purchase of property.

Requirements include 3 years experience in commercial real estate acquisition, market research, zoning, property leasing, purchasing and negotiations. Experience in a multinational company is a plus factor. Travel required.

Code: PROJECT MANAGERS
The successful candidate will oversee the work of contractors, manage multiple construction projects and coordinate architectural and civil engineering designs.

Candidate must have experience in securing relevant permits from government, possess a degree in Architectural or Civil Engineering and have 5 years construction experience in commercial projects. Experience in a multinational company is preferred.

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Chosen candidate will be placed on a fast track program and will later run a multi-million business.

If you can effectively put marketing, management, accounting, public relations and people skills to work and you have at least 2 years experience managing the operations of a quick service or fine dining restaurant or hotel, you should seriously consider a career in McDonald's.

Other requirements include being customer-focused, excellent communication skills, and proficiency in the use of computer.

We offer a good starting salary, excellent benefits, and significant potential for advancement.

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If you are:
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- ✓ Preferably a Graduate of Marketing or Business Management degree
- ✓ At least 1 year experience in rental of properties
- ✓ Articulate and excellent in written communication
- ✓ Must be well-versed / proficient in the use of MS Office Core modules
- ✓ Must be performance-driven, self-motivated and results-oriented
- ✓ Possesses excellent interpersonal skills with positive mental attitude
- ✓ With stable disposition and ability to effectively perform under pressure

We are also looking for qualified candidates to fill in the following positions:

- **GRAPHIC/VISUAL ARTIST**
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
- **IN-HOUSE BROKER**
- **MKTG. SEC./RECEPTIONIST**

Please come and see us with your comprehensive resume at:

Quadrillion Group of Companies
24/F 139 Corporate Center Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Look for Archie Reyes (Recruitment and Training Officer)
Telephone Nos. 813-8331/ 750-1285 Loc. 142 Fax No. 750-1305

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SALES REPRESENTATIVES
(PDI-SR)

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- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who can stand challenges

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS
(PDI-CSO)

- Graduates from country's top universities; with degree in marketing or any business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable individuals; having business writing skills is an advantage
- Must be responsible, persevering and mature; not over 25 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
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1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

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- *21-27 years old; graduate of a four-year business/ management course*
- *will take charge of day-to-day store operations, administration & implementation of standard operating procedures*
- *articulate, people-oriented, flexible, willing to work on rotating shifts and a team player*
- *we invite fresh graduates who possess strong leadership skills*

PROJECT ENGINEER (PE)
- *male; 24-28 years old; graduate of BS Civil Engineering or Architecture; preferably Licensed*
- *with 2-4 years experience in Project Management, Cost Estimate & Site Supervision (exposure to Quick Service Restaurant operations is a plus factor)*
- *will manage/ administer construction of stores; must be computer-literate; willing and able to travel*

DESIGN ARCHITECT (DA)
- *male or female; 24-30 years old; graduate of BS Civil Engineering or Architecture; preferably Licensed*
- *minimum of 2 years experience in Planning & Design, Construction Supervision & Site Inspection (exposure to Quick Service Restaurant operations is a plus factor)*
- *will take charge in designing/ planning the "look" of soon-to-open & existing stores; knowledgeable in Autocad and Graphics Presentation*

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (ME)
- *male; 24-30 years old; graduate of BS Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering; must be Licensed*
- *minimum of 2 years work-related experience; knowledgeable in Value Engineering & Cost Estimate (exposure to Quick Service Restaurant operations is a plus factor)*
- *will be in charge of the stores' maintenance requirements (repair & preventive); store inspection; sourcing & evaluation of contractors; documentation and reporting; must be computer-literate; willing and able to travel*

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY (DS)
- *female; 25-30 years old; single; preferably BSC Accounting graduate*
- *minimum of 2 years work-related experience; must be computer-literate*
- *will assist the department head in the preparation of various reports; will provide over-all administrative support for the department; with excellent communication skills; able to deal with people from all levels in the organization*

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resume with contact telephone number, recent 2x2 colored photo, and Transcript of Records to:

HRD-Selection and Hiring
CODE:_____
G/F Matias Bldg. Aurora Blvd. Corner Boston Street, Cubao, QC
E-mail Address: apply@greenwich.com.ph

(Previous applicants need not apply)

TeleMessage

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- Graduate of 4-year Marketing or any business-related course
- Advertising, Promotions or Media background, an advantage
- Strong communication, presentation and negotiation skills

CALL ATTENDANTS
- At least two years of college education

HRD MANAGER
- Graduate of Clinical Psychology
- At least two years work experience

CALL CENTER SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of 4-year Management or any business-related course
- At least two years work experience as Call Center Supervisor

SEND RESUMÉS TO FAX 632-8785221
E-MAIL tmp867@i-manila.com.ph

Or MAIL

Administrative Manager
TeleMessage Philippines, Inc.
19/F Trafalgar Plaza, 105 H.V. Dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1200

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RECRUITMENT MANAGER (REC-A07)

- Ideal candidates are Psychology or Behavioral Science graduates, preferably with at least 5 years of relevant experience in supervisory level
- At least 3 years experience in recruitment
- Exposure to all facets of Human Resources is an advantage

HR OFFICER – ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT / TRAINING (OD-A04)

- Ideal candidates are Psychology or Behavioral Science graduates, preferably with at least 5 years of relevant experience in organization and work design, organization diagnosis and environment scanning
- Exposure to all facets of Human Resources is an advantage

HR OFFICER – COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS (COMPEN-A05)

- Ideal candidates are Psychology or Behavioral Science graduates, preferably with at least 3 years of relevant experience in the area of compensation and benefits management
- Exposure to all facets of Human Resources is an advantage

We offer a competitive remuneration package and a rewarding career. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumés with reference code, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

Human Resources Department
SOFTWARE VENTURES INTERNATIONAL
6TH Floor JMT Corporate Condominium, # 27 ADB Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
Apply on-line at: www.svi.com.ph or e-mail us at: hrd@svi.com.ph

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A dynamic & fast-growing H.K. manufacturer of Electrical Household Appliance and OEM Products is seeking for the following positions:

SENIOR MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Diploma or above in mechanical engineering
- Minimum 3 years experience in Mechanical for Household Electrical Appliances
- Familiar with UL and EN standards
- Experience in AutoCAD & pro-engineer drafting, mechanical parts design & evaluation
- Feasibility study on new technology for design
- Must be fluent in oral and written English

PROJECT/DESIGN ENGINEER

- Polytechnic graduate in Mechanical / Manufacturing / Electrical Engineering
- At least 2 years working experience
- Experience in design for Household Electrical Appliances
- Good Knowledge in product safety approval, such as UL/VDE/ BS etc.
- Strong in project follow up skill
- Mature with good communication skill
- Self motivated and can work independently
- Knowledge for technical drawing
- Good command of English

Interested parties please apply with full resumé, current / expected Salary to: Personnel Manager, Unit 9, 7th Floor CRE Centre, 889 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong or e-mail to general@smartlite.com.hk or fax at (852) 2743-3819 or mail to Makati City P.O. Box No. 1024

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CLAIMS MANAGER

Qualifications:
- ❑ College Graduate
- ❑ At least 5 years experience in handling Insurance Claims for all lines
- ❑ Male between 30 to 45 years of age
- ❑ Fluent in Oral and Written Communication
- ❑ Dependable and Honest
- ❑ Can work under pressure

Please submit your resume with photo, transcript of records, diploma, certificates of courses / seminars attended, to:
Personnel Dept.
3/F Salamin Bldg., 197 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

is inviting applicants for the position of

COLLEGE REGISTRAR

for the Loyola Schools to start by April 16, 2001.

The ideal candidate has a Master's Degree, preferably in Educational Administration, Business Administration or Management Information Systems. A minimum of five years of supervisory experience in managing people and information systems is desirable. The candidate should have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and should possess good moral character.

The successful candidate is expected to actively manage and improve the interaction between the Office of the Registrar and its clients. He/She will supervise twenty full-time staff.

Interested candidates should send the following: (a) an application letter, (b) an updated resumé, and (c) names, addresses, and contact numbers of at least three professional references to:

Director of Personnel
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
ATTENTION: The Registrar Search Committee

Requirements may also be sent by e-mail to **mors@admu.edu.ph** or faxed to 426-1245.

Deadline for applications: 17 March 2001
For more information, please call 426-6001 local 4122.

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Graduate of Journalism, Literature or Mass Communications; Preferably single; Computer literate; Knows clerical and basic publications production work; Proficient in written and spoken English and Filipino; Loves to read books and other publications

PRINTING COORDINATOR

Graduate of Commerce or Accounting; Preferably single; Experience in press work/operations is an advantage; Computer literate

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

Graduate of Commerce or Accounting; Preferably single and not more than 35 years old; With some experience in inventory monitoring and/or warehouse operations

Please submit your biodata and photo to:

Admissions c/o The Publishing Department, 2/F Team Pacific Building, 14 P. Antonio St., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City 1604

(Please do not fax or email your biodata and photo)

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

- **Restaurant Manager**
- **Cafeteria Manager/Supervisor**
- **Cashier**
- **Account Executive**
- **Receptionist**
- **Captain Waiter**
- **Head Waiter**
- **Bar Tender**
- **Waiter / Busboy**
- **Restaurant Cook**
- **Cafeteria Cook**
- **Kitchen Helper**
- **Storekeeper**
- **Dishwasher**
- **Delivery Boys**
- **Drivers**

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, present address and a recent 2x2 photo through mail or personal delivery to:

ALBERGUS
Personnel Department
c/o Ms. May Palma
From Mondays to Saturdays - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
16-A Capitol Hills Road, Old Balara, Diliman
Quezon City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

One of the leading software company is in need of top caliber **Marketing System Consultants**.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Preferably from a reputable school.
- Fluent in English
- Accounting or Marketing graduate
- Not more than 30 years old.
- Have an experience in Sales or Marketing is a plus factor.
- With personal car is an advantage.
- With pleasing personality.

Qualified applicants may come and visit us from 8:30 to 5:30 - Monday to Friday with their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and other credentials with two (2) 2x2 pictures to:

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS INT'L., INC.

Suite 809, Antel Global Corporate Center
J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 634-4785/634-4795/634-5449
635-7628
Fax No.: 635-7852
info@acctgsoft.com

A Foreign-based stockbroking company is looking for qualified individuals to become

EQUITIES TRADER and RESEARCH ANALYST

Please send your CV and cover letter by fax, mail or email by **17 March 2001** to:

2403 A & B, West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax: (63-2) 637-3724
Email address: misl@mindgate.net

Applicants with experience in Banking, Insurance, Foreign currencies and other related services are preferred.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

JPN Japan Philippine Nameplate Inc.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

ECE (MALE / FEMALE) (College Graduate)

Qualifications:
- Computer Literate
- With or without License
- Work experience not required
- Below 25 years old
- Good moral character and hardworking
- Willing to undergo training

Send your Resume / Application direct to JPN:
Address: Lot 9 Blk. 13 Cavite Economic Zone
Rosario, Cavite
Tel.# : (046) 437-1714 / 17
Fax# : (046) 437-1713
E-mail : jpn@okane.skylnet.net
Contact person : Ms. Marie / Tina

The fast expanding International Company based in HongKong with offices in Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, UAE and Australia invites experienced web professionals to present their application for

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (CIO)

The CIO's work program will focus on ensuring that the information resources and systems as well as the Company's supporting technology infrastructure are effectively applied to achieve its goals.

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Information and knowledge management, use of collaborative tools and information systems, workstation hardware and software, local area network management and global communication services.
- Providing information and knowledge sharing among staff and customers worldwide.
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Selection Criteria

- With advanced degree in IT; 10 years experience in a senior management position.
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- Possesses effective communication and interpersonal skills, able to write concise reports and deliver effective oral presentations.
- An outstanding leader and team player
- Technical knowledge required includes NT and Unix, MS Windows, VB6, SQL, Access, decentralized DB Mgmt., LAN, Intranet, Internet and Web Technology.

Company offers a very competitive compensation package. Qualified candidates should send detailed CV with track records, cover letter, recent photo, and expected salary not later than 11 March 2001 to:

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
15th Floor Robinsons-Equitable Tower
ADB cor. Poveda Road, Ortigas Center, Quezon City
E-mail: jay-hrd@hotmail.com
Fax No.: 633-9254

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- If you like to work at competitive salary rates, in a nearby home office (a growing trend here, following a similar one in the US), where the costs and stress of commuting are minimized and the cost of work is further reduced with free lunch;
- If you live in the vicinity of San Juan, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Cubao, Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo and Marikina;

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Managing Director
PR COUNSELLORS PHILIPPINES, INC.
The PRCP House, 22 Bautista Avenue, Bautista Ville
Rosario, Pasig City (Near Ever Gotesco - Ortigas)
E-mail: prcpinc@pacific.net.ph

Club Panoly Resorts, Inc.

wishes to recruit suitable candidate for the post of

CORPORATE FINANCE MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible to head the Finance and Accounts on Corporate travel. He will also be responsible to assist in computerization of all Financial, Accounting and linked activities to ensure proper flow and timely use of data for various management concerns. The candidate must possess following qualifications and experiences:

1. Commerce graduate with Management Degree/Certificate.
2. Computer literate, having programming knowledge and holding Microsoft Certified Professional Certification in Visual Basic.
3. Knowledge of ERP packages like Oracle Financials.
4. Must possess a functional experience of minimum of 20 years. An overseas work experience is an added advantage.

This is a key position and the selected candidate shall be reporting directly to the President and CEO. Interested candidates may apply to:

The Executive Secretary to President and CEO
Club Panoly Resorts, Inc.
9th Floor, Pacific Place Building
539 Arquiza Street, Ermita, Manila
E-mail: admin@clubpanoly.com.ph

LEGAL OFFICER

A multi-national Corporation with its presence in 88 countries, is in search of a Legal Officer for its Philippine Office.

DO NOT APPLY UNLESS

1. You are an experienced litigator;
2. You preferably have in-house corporate experience;
3. You have been an admitted practitioner for at least 5 years;
4. You are capable of working independently as you will formally report to the Director for Legal Affairs abroad; and
5. You can produce your academic and employment credentials.

The Company offers a very competitive employment package. To be considered, your application must confirm the above requirements with your expected salary clearly stated and one recent passport-size photo attached. As this is an urgent need, applicants are advised to send applications (preferably with e-mail address) on or before **March 15, 2001** to:

The Office of the Director for Legal Affairs
Legal Affairs Department
GoldQuest International Limited
5th Floor, Mass Mutual Tower
38 Gloucester Road
HONG KONG - SAR.

URGENTLY NEEDED

A. LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEERS or ARCHITECTS
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PROJECT MANAGERS, with minimum 5 years construction experience
PROJECT COORDINATORS, with minimum 10 years experience in construction management, quantity surveys and quality control
PROJECT ENGINEERS, with minimum 7 years experience in building design, estimating, project scheduling and management
B. STRUCTURAL STEEL DETAILERS, CE or ARCH graduates, proficient in CAD, preferably experienced with design detailing and estimating for steel building systems
C. SAFETY OFFICERS, college graduates preferably experienced in safety and security procedures with building projects
D. PROPERTY OFFICER, college graduate, experienced in leasing maintenance and marketing of condominiums/real estate

Apply with credentials and NBI clearance at JDBEC, Inc.
Rm-511 Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, Remedios Street
corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
E-mail address: jdbecmnl@hotmail.com

AGUA VIDA SYSTEMS, INC.

Is looking for dynamic individuals to fill up the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Preferably Male
- 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Management, Marketing, Engineering and other related course
- With at least one year experience in sales
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to do fieldwork

ADMIN/PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR
- Male or Female
- 22 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Business Administration Psychology and other related course
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Strong leadership skills
- 1 to 2 years experience as Admin. Asst.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- Male or Female
- Accounting graduate
- 22 to 26 years old
- With experience in credit and collection or handling inventories

OFFICE CLERKS
- Female, 21 to 24 years old
- Graduate of Business Administration, Computer Science and other related course
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills

DELIVERY TRUCK DRIVER
- Male
- 26 to 35 years old
- Highschool graduate
- With valid professional driver's license
- Familiar with all areas in Metro Manila and nearby provinces

Qualified applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
3/F SMI Compound C. Raymundo Avenue
Maybunga, Pasig City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

The candidate will report directly to the country manager. The salary we offer is highly competitive and negotiable depending upon the qualification of the candidate.

The candidate must have the following:

- Passed the CPA licensure exams
- Knowledge in financial statement preparation and analysis
- Must be computer literate
- At least one year experience in above job function
- Good command in written and oral communication

You can submit your letter of application and resumé to:

UNITELLER
1108 PRESTIGE TOWER
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Or Call 636-4611/12, 910-5251
Contact Person: Miss Margie Gernal
Or e-mail us at: UFI@uniteller.com

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email: barrymc@hwa.ie
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Jojo Velasco
IT Specialist Administrator
Jupiter Computer Appointments Ltd

E-mail address: jcappointments@xtra.co.nz
jojo@jcappointments.com

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Provides calm and efficient executive support to two senior executive managers, who spend much of their time travelling. The position requires good computer (PowerPoint, Excel, Word) and communication skills, the flexibility to cope with changing work needs and the ability to set priorities. A university education and comparable work experience are essential.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: asmhr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

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www.globalsources.com

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ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

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5. Filipino

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

1. Mathematics
2. General Science
3. Chemistry

PERSONNEL

1. High School Librarian

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. BSEEd/BSE graduate
2. Catholic
3. Proficient in English and Filipino
4. With pleasing personality
5. Not more than 35 years old
6. Patient, hardworking, and with genuine love for children
7. A holder of a Professional Teacher Certificate / Board Exam. / Newly graduates are also welcome to apply.

Personally submit or mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé with contact telephone number, recent 2x2 size photo, and transcript of records to:

HRD OFFICE
Immaculate Heart of Mary School
Dominic Savio St., Better Living Subdivision
Parañaque City
Tel. No.: 823-4109 local 14
Telefax No.: 823-5628

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a well established International shipping company is in need of a

PORT ENGINEER
(TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT)

Not more than 50 years old, must have an actual on-board experience as Chief Engineer on ocean-going vessels for at least three (3) years computer literate, ISM-oriented definitely a plus:

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumé through fax no. 527-3006 or through E-mail address: eastship@skylnet.net

or mail to:

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- Computer literate
- Well-versed with Vessel Planned Maintenance System and its implementation
- Willing to join vessel on short periods for training purposes of sea staff and implementation of Planned Maintenance Systems
- Highly motivated individuals who are looking for a long term shore-based job

MARINE SUPERINTENDENTS

- Male
- Licensed Master Mariner
- With at least five (5) years experience in either ocean or sea going vessel
- Knowledgeable in STCW, ISM and MARINA rules and regulations
- Willing to go on board the vessel
- Hardworking and dedicated

CHIEF ENGINEERS

- Must have at least two (2) years sea experience as Chief Engineer in foreign or local shipping Company
- Preferably not more than fifty (50) years of age

LICENSED ELECTRICIANS

- Preferably graduate of Electrical Engineering
- Registered Master Electrician and/or Registered Electrical Engineer
- Experienced as Vessel or Industrial Electrician
- Not more than thirty five (35) years of age

SYSTEMS PROGRAMMERS

- Male or Female
- Computer Science graduate from a reputable educational institution
- With at least one (1) year experience in Foxpro 2.6 for Windows and Visual Foxpro 6.0
- Knowledge in Visual Basic 6.0, Access and SQL 6.5 or higher
- Knowledge in Windows NT 4.0 and Microsoft Applications is an advantage
- Willing to work long hours

Interested parties may apply personally or mail their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

The HR Manager
LORENZO SHIPPING CORPORATION
6th Floor Birch Tree Plaza Building
825 Muelle dela Industria Street,
Binondo, Manila
e-mail address: lscmis@mozcom.com
Tel. Nos.: 245-7481 to 88

PROGRAM ASSISTANT NEEDED

The Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), an NGO with headquarters in the USA, requires a Program Assistant for its Philippine program in Manila. Must be fluent in English and Tagalog, computer literate, and have good project management skills. Financial abilities and conference organizing experience would be assets.

Suitable persons should send detailed CV and letter of interest to:

Mail: **CHF/Philippines**
c/o APEX Business Center, Suite 910 West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Building
P.O. Box 12234, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Metro Manila 1605, Philippines

Fax: **632-9014** or **633-0751**

E-mail: **chfasia@info.com.ph**

Deadline for submission of application is **Friday, March 9, 2001**.

Applicants not contacted by March 31, 2001 shall assume that the position is filled.

Dealer Marketing Officer

Qualifications:
- ✓ Male
- ✓ Graduate of Marketing or other business courses from a reputable university
- ✓ Between 22-32 years old
- ✓ With at least 2 years in marketing and sales of **TIMBER PRODUCTS** or Architectural products (preferably to dealers)
- ✓ Has contacts within the construction industry
- ✓ **Chinese Speaking** is an advantage

Project Sales Manager

Qualifications:
- ✓ Female/Male
- ✓ 23-30 years old
- ✓ Graduate of Architecture, Civil Eng. from a reputable university
- ✓ Min. of 3 years experience in selling architectural products or **TOILET CUBICLE PARTITION** (preferably project selling)
- ✓ Must have good communication skills
- ✓ Must possess strong determination to succeed

Interested candidates are requested to submit their resumé with 2x2 photo and transcript of records at:

United Timber Corp.
Congressional Ave. (across east gate shell)
Gardenville Subd. Proj. 8, Q.C.
e-mail: timberex@info.com.ph Tel. 426-42-20

WANTED ACCOUNTING STAFF

- ❑ Male, not more than 30 years old
- ❑ Accounting Graduate, need not be CPA
- ❑ Hardworking and Honest
- ❑ Computer Literate

Competitive compensation package will be given to successful applicants.

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT:

ETB RESOURCES, INC.
#10 Silay St., Talayan Village
Quezon City

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

1. SALES EXECUTIVES: For Cainta
(For Rizal Area: Cainta, Taytay, Marikina, Antipolo & Pasig)
a) Food Products:
- Newly Graduate or with experience in selling
- Independent and to handle Corporate selling
- Able to speak good English and with know how in written communication

b) Construction Product:
- Graduate in Mechanical or Electrical
- Min. 3 years sales experience in the Construction field
- Experienced in handling Corporate account
- Must be good in written and oral communication

2. SALES EXECUTIVES - Makati
- College graduate
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- 2 years experience in Sales
- Good Moral character

3. SALES CLERK
- College Graduate/College level
- Female not more than 30 years old
- Computer Literate preferably EXCEL, WORD 2000
- Good moral character
- Resident of Taytay, Cainta or nearby areas
- Can type at least 35 wpm/knowledge in manual typewriter

4. MERCHANDISER
- Male, not more than 35 years old
- Must have previous experience as merchandiser
- With good moral character

5. DRIVER
- With 2 years experienced in driving Commercial Vehicles (Isuzu ELF, L300 Aluminum Van)
- Knowledge in troubleshooting; with Professional Drivers License with restrictions 2 & 3
- Below 30 years old
- Must be residing within Rizal area (Pasig, Taytay, Angono or Cainta since the plant is located in Taytay)

6. TECHNICIANS
- Vocational graduate or equivalent to work experience: 1 to 2 years experience
- Knowledge in Mechanical and Technical work
- Knowledge in repairing Hot & Cold Dispenser
- Below 30 years old

For Positions 1-5 please call 660-7004; for the Technician/Sales Representative - Makati please call 843-1171. Bring Bio-data with 2x2 picture.

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Candidates should be a degree holder, Male/Female, pleasing personality, fluent in English language, computer literate and with a minimum 2 years experience.

Successful candidates will be offered a 2-year contract - renewable, attractive salary package, life insurance, performance-based bonus, extensive trainings and career advancement.

Interested applicants may apply personally with their resumé, diploma, T/R, Employment certificates. Passport and other pertinent documents (all must be prepared in A4 sizes bondpaper) starting **6 March 2001**, to:

IDEAS SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.
12 Kasing-kasing St., corner K 9th St., East Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4391769, 4334494

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Urgently needs

20- Account Executives

- Male/Female
  22-23 years old
- College graduate of any course
- Selling experience would be an advantage but not necessary
- Self-confident and can relate with all types of people

Interested parties may contact
Tel.# 838-2540 to 41 & 2551

A Prestigious Trading Company
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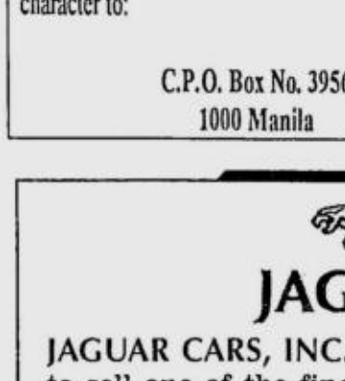

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MAGAZINE

March 4, 2001
Volume 13 No. 104

PUSHING FOR NEW POLITICS

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Geisha

Disrobe me gently, my Lord,
Or taste the kiss of sharpened steel
On cowardly flesh.

Unsheath me slowly, carefully,
Or breathe your last with eyes
Wide open.

Caress me lovingly, passionately,
Or feel the wrath of a
Woman scorned.

Thread slowly, my Lord, watch out.
Beneath this mask of subservience
Lies a Samurai with a
Sword.

Gabriel Baban Keith

Ang Agwela

Nagsisipanaog na
ang mga butiki.
Pumipintig ang dalampasigan
at banayad na inaalon
ang tumba-tumba.
Mataimtim siyang umaaninaw
sa aparisyon
ng mga iniibig:
mga mukhang taal
na kapiling
kahit pa nga mabuhangin
ang kaniyang paningin
at ang silim
ay nagiging
mas malawak pang dagat.

Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

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The Cover Image Pagbabago@Pilipinas is here to give the political system a whole new perspective. Some members (from left) are Alan Ortiz, Fr. Tito Caluag, SJ, Alex Magno, Kiko Pangilinan, Jim Paredes, Kuh Ledesma, Nicky Perlas, Marian Pastor Roces, Joey Reyes, Lory Tan and Dan Songco. *Cover photograph by Mike Alquinto*

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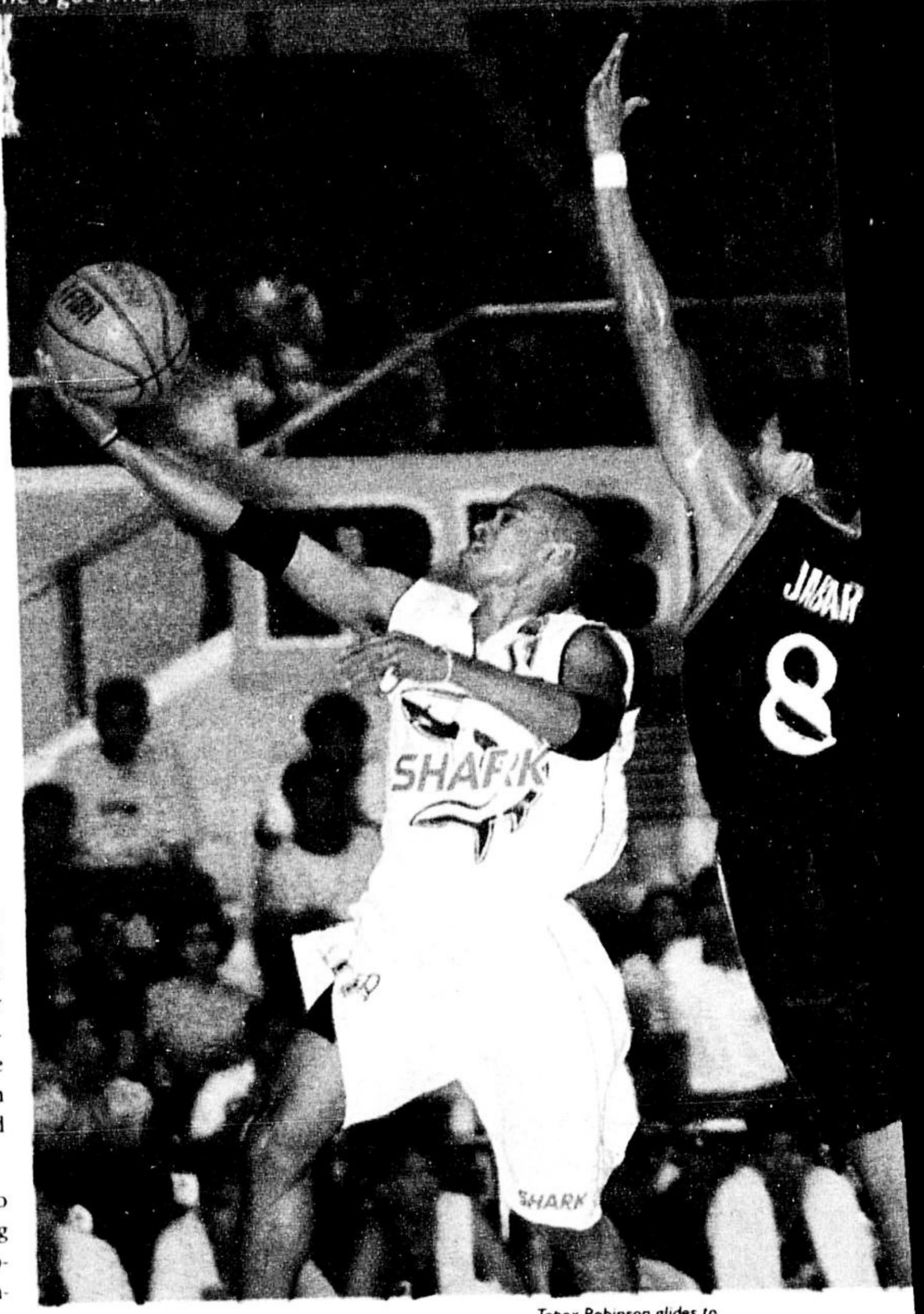
All in the Game
by Fe Lacsamana

He never got to play with the big boys growing up, and hid his basketball success from a disapproving parent. Now, Fil-Am PBL star Topex Robinson has proven that he's got what it takes

Reluctant Star

Romy Homillada



Topex Robinson glides to the basket — and to the top of the hardcourt heap

THINGS ARE JUMPING AT THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL LEAGUE (PBL). FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE DISPUTED IN THE BEST OF 7 TITLE SERIES. A LITTLE AMBITIOUS, SCOFFED JADED OBSERVERS. BUT HEY, TICKETS WERE BEING RESERVED FOR THE FINAL GAME. AND THE REQUESTS DIDN'T COME FROM THE PLAYERS' RELATIVES, EITHER.

Unbelievable, but there was a turn-away crowd, too.

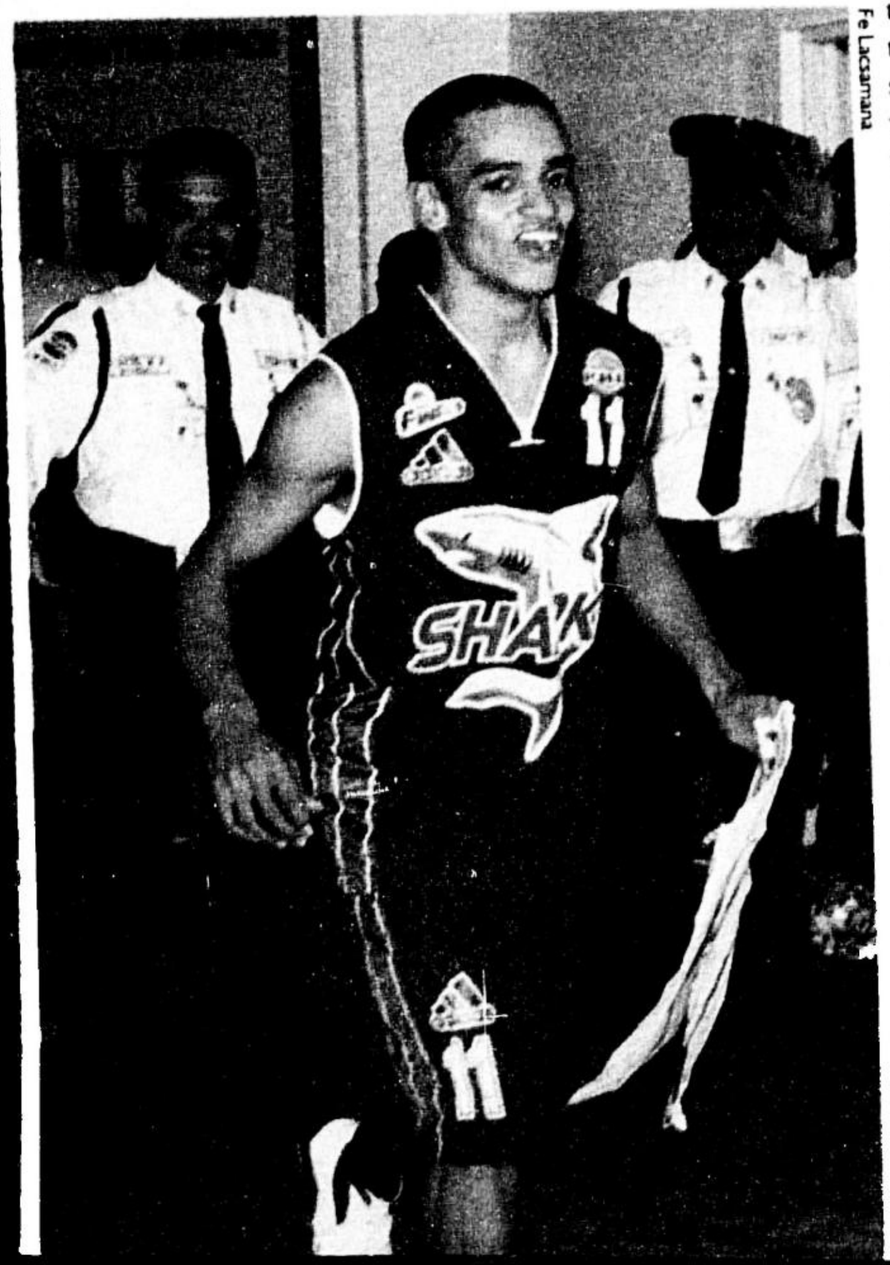
"I try to do everything to meet expectations. The players look up to me for leadership. It's a big responsibility but at this point, I feel I'm getting there"

"We had to apologize for the limited space in the championship venue. We had to give them the assurance that when the PBL opens on March 24, we'll give them first priority with the tickets," explains Commissioner Chino Trinidad.

The growing interest in the PBL was due in part to the controversial contention of Games and Amusements Board (GAB) Chair Dominador Cepeda. He claimed that since its athletes are paid , the PBL is a professional league and should therefore be placed under GAB supervision.

The assertion became a blessing in disguise. It naturally generated a lot of attention that worked in favor of the league. "It brought to light our reason for being," says Trinidad. " We're there to provide the venue for those who want to play for their varsity teams while earning something on the side. We want to produce standouts with a big difference. When we release them, we want them armed with a college degree."

Fe Lacsamana



Topex loves the challenge of the PBL, but is still getting used to the attention

The controversy has drawn attention to some of the league's more interesting standouts. *"Kami naman ngayon,"* proclaims a Sharks poster hanging in the stadium. A rather prophetic statement, because the Panlilio boys were the finals underdogs. Welcoat had pummeled them 4-0 in the previous Commissioner's Cup. Were they in for a biggest jolt of their lives when the heralded Welcoat was devoured by the Sharks!

For one, the Power Boosters had to give a fitting send-off to the PBA-bound Roger Yap. For another, they had 26-year-old Christopher Michael "Topex" Robinson, lean and mean, directing the play.

"Winning the Challenge Cup was pure hard work," says Topex, a late-blooming spit-fire. "Our main asset was our defense, so we saw to it that we played as a team and defended as one. We had to help and support one another. Welcoat has won the finals thrice. They've got MVP Renren Ritualo, a team leader who has earned my respect. I fouled out defending against him. My first time to do so."

If Topex's childhood friends could see him now, their jaws would probably drop. "Half of my younger years were spent in Guam and half here," says the Subic resident, diamond studs on his ears glimmering as he sits for the interview at the PBL office. "I was so tiny and frail-looking that I was always a spectator. In fact, when I asked to join a game, they didn't want me. They said I wasn't fit to play

His playmates frowned on his size and were adamant about his skills, which were more of a clown's. One time, during a game at Subic Naval Base, he sank the ball in the opposite goal. "I didn't know where I was. People just kept laughing."

From that early embarrassing experience, the tiny Topex learned a lot about preparing for the task at hand. He was not only going to be a basketball player – he would be a good one. No ifs and buts about it.

He was dead-set on embarking on a sports career when he met stiff opposition from his dad, James Robinson, a US Navy lieutenant who was hell-bent on having Topex follow in his footsteps. "Dad didn't really want me getting into the discipline. He didn't want me to play because it wasn't a stable job. He also thought I'd never make it."

So Topex faked being in the navy. James wanted options for his only son and eldest child in a brood of three. Hoops were not for a lifetime, he said. A degree in Mass Communications offered more opportunities to realize goals and dreams. But the young Topex had mapped out his life's plans, and surreptitiously played his game.

From pick-up games in Guam, he graduated to the commercial leagues. Impressed with Robinson's basketball sense, his coach, Carlos Buhain, encouraged him to return to the Philippines in 1997.

Back in Manila, Topex first sought out old pal Rollie Basilides at San Sebastian College, where they eventually ended up shooting baskets. Coaches Turo Valenzona and Bai Cristobal took notice of the quick ball handler and told him to get pertinent papers from Guam. In April, he was back, ready, willing and able.

The rookie made it to the San Sebastian champion team but was understandably overshadowed by star players Jasper Ocampo, Rommel Adducul, Banjo Calpito and the rest.

When news of his hardcourt exploits got to Subic, James was furious at Topex's insolence. More than that, he was afraid for his boy. There were threats left and right of a coup d'etat. What if he got caught in the crossfire?

But then James' friends told him how good an athlete his son was turning out to be. Why doesn't he come and watch his son on the floor, they suggested? James eventually relented and found out that Topex really was making something of himself. Said the father, with a lot of pride, "I guess I can't do anything more about it, huh?"

"That took away all the pressure," says Topex. "No more worries, no more hiding my game from him. I went all out." Topex would be collecting awards soon after. Sadly, before James could share the euphoria with Topex, the senior Robinson passed away.

Remember the diminutive Topex, who didn't back down on his problem of size in a big man's game? Now 5'9" and 145 lbs. with a sportscasting background in the NCAA , the mass com junior is still at it. "I love challenges," he says, grinning, "especially if I have to prove my worth. Our team owner, Raul Panlilio, trusts me and has given me the green light to take care of this team. I was given an assignment I really love."

The ex-Bingo Filipino campaigner, an unrestricted PBA free agent, must be making the right moves. Apart from being part of the Mythical Selection, he is the PBL Press Corps' Mr. Intangible.

Topex, who celebrates his birthday on Christmas Day, fishes out a maroon swatch from a Mother of Perpetual Help mini prayer booklet which he keeps in his pocket. It supposedly comes from a gown worn by the Black Nazarene.

"The canteen owner at San Sebastian gave me this," he explains. "What's peculiar about this is that even if you lose it, it always comes back to you. I've lost it twice. I never play without it."

Another source of power is his devotion to his namesake, St. Michael, passed on to him by his mom, Maria Robinson. Mother and son bond when they pray to the archangel. "I try to do everything to meet expectations. The players look up to me for leadership. It's a big responsibility but at this point, I feel I'm getting there," says Topex, an instant albeit reluctant celebrity.

Things may be different now, when total strangers get chummy and people talk in excited whispers when they see the "small but terrible" Shark Power Booster.

"I'm not comfortable when people look at me. I just want to have a normal life. But then, Coach Leo Austria says it's part of the game," he beams. The way things are going, things are never going to be the same again, whether he jogs, swims at Philsport, or goes shopping for his favorite black t-shirts.

Topex counts San Miguel Beerman Olsen Racela as a favorite player. "Racela is one guy I truly respect. How well he orchestrates things. He doesn't even care if he scores or not. He's unselfish and is the last man to take the shot."

Topex Robinson might well be describing himself.

Fe Larsarana

Topex, center, helped point the Sharks to the PBL championship

The Big Break

Veteran political journalists conceive a magazine from the ashes of the Erap administration

Lyn Rillon

Breaking the news mold: (Lto R) Chay Florentino-Hofilena, Glenda Gloria, Noel Tolentino and Marites Vitug

BORN ON THE 24TH OF JANUARY, YEAR 2001, NEWSBREAK, THE YOUNGEST NEWS WEEKLY IN TOWN, IS THE OUTCOME OF A CONVERGENCE OF EVENTS. IT WAS MOTHERED BY THREE WOMEN JOURNALISTS WHO CONCEIVED OF THE MAGAZINE WHILE COVERING THE UNRAVELING OF THE ERAP EMPIRE. "WE WERE ENERGIZED BY THE EVENTS. WE WERE SO ANIMATED," SAYS MARITES VITUG.

The quintessential detached journalist, Marites has covered four presidents, two People Power revolts, several coups and mutinies, plus the communist and Muslim insurgencies. But this year, she began her coverage of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not as a reporter, but as editor of the political weekly magazine.

Newsbreak was conceived on December 26, 2000. In a meeting, Noel Tolentino, who served as Philippine Information Agency (PIA) director-general during the Aquino administration, told Marites and two other women journalists he was thinking of launching a political cybermagazine.

Chay Florentino-Hofilena quickly suggested instead: "A political weekly." Glenda Gloria joined the sales pitch. By lunchtime, Noel, Marites, Glenda and Chay were already working on the concept.

Two days later, the presented the concept to Rafael Lopa, president of Pan Philippine News and Information Network. On December 29, the concept was approved. Marites, Glenda and Chay went on board January 1.

Young writers and a photographer were recruited to the staff. They called up friends to contribute. The trio were in Chay's house when Chay and Glenda came up with the title "Newsbreak."

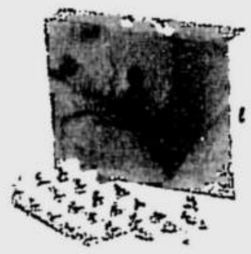
They had all planned to "soft" launch the magazine on February 7. But as they always say, no amount of planning can stop the tide of history.

On Friday, January 19, hours after General Angelo Reyes announced his withdrawal of support from the Estrada administration, Marites got a rousing message from Chay and Glenda. "They wanted to come out with the magazine *na*," Marites remembers. "They said, 'We have the story. Let's put out the magazine.'"

Judging from the orders coming from distributors, Marites feels they have filled a void in the magazine market. "The only way to get noticed is to have the inside dope, the exclusive story plus analysis. I think that's what Newsbreak is all about."

Fe B. Zamora

The Beauty Pill: Advanced product from U.S., *ENVIE* provides new dimension in skin care



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MEMBER. PANA Truth in Advertising

Cover Story

by Eric S. Caruncho

photograph by Mike Alquinto

What next after a revolution borne on the waves of text messaging? Enter Pagbabago@Pilipinas, a network of electronically linked influential citizens from different walks of life espousing new ideas for new politics. As their manifesto declares, "Malauhan na tayo!"

Agents of Change

A REVOLUTION IS NOT A DINNER PARTY, AS CHAIRMAN MAO ONCE OBSERVED, BUT CAN A DINNER PARTY BE A REVOLUTION? IT DEPENDS ON WHO'S COMING, AND WHAT THEY TALK ABOUT WHILE WAITING FOR THE MAIN COURSE TO BE SERVED.

Last year, after the *jueteng* scandal broke, a group of people got together to do something about it.

They are the so-called "successor generation" who would be taking over the country's reins if they could loosen the death grip of the old guard power elite

"We started comparing notes," recalls lawyer and now senatorial candidate Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan. "(APO member) Jim Paredes, (political analyst) Alex Magno and I thought we could get the Philforum group together again. Our preliminary objective was how to get (then Trade Secretary) Mar Roxas to resign from the cabinet, because he was one of the convenors of Philforum, and we thought it was the right thing to do."

Philforum was primarily a forum for the discussion of social and political issues. It was composed mostly of young leaders in business, government and non-government organizations. They are the so-called "successor generation" who would be taking over the country's reins *if* they could loosen the death grip of the old guard power elite – the *"trapos"* and other reactionaries in business and government – and *if* they could keep themselves from ossifying into the same.

As "Juetengate" worsened and impeachment of the president loomed, the group expanded beyond the Philforum group as friends brought in more friends. They soon realized that they had grown into a pretty powerful and diverse network. Apart from business leaders and members of NGOs, there were artists, media people, educators – what old-line Lefties used to call the "middle forces." The group included celebrities such as Paredes and singer Kuh Ledesma, director Joey Reyes, stage actor Bart Guingona, author Marian Pastor Roces, people in the news such as Magno and Pangilinan, and politicians such as Rep. Neric Acosta. But the public face of the group was only the visible tip of the iceberg; the overwhelming bulk remains anonymous by choice.

Since they communicated a lot through the Web, they gave themselves a name using the shorthand of the e-groups: Pagbabago@Pilipinas. (So Pinoy, at a time when cafés and refreshment stands are calling themselves Kape@Tinapay and Gulaman@Sago.)

"From the start Pagbabago was formed as a forum of ideas," says Bookmark publisher Lory Tan. "We never saw ourselves as another NGO going out to march in the streets, although individually each was free to do what he wanted."

It was a new kind of organization, an association of free individuals without a hidebound leadership hierarchy and all the dreary power play that it entailed. "Pagbabago is made up of individuals, so they don't bring in their institutions," explains environmentalist and civil society advocate Nicanor Perlas, whom the others refer to (only half-jokingly) as the group's theoretician.

"The structure is tripartite – business, government and civil society leaders – and the only reason they're there is to discuss ideas," he continues. "The forum itself is cultural, not political. Political people are in the group as individuals. This should not be mistaken for a power-broking group. In fact, many in the group are influential in the GMA government, but the group itself maintains a distance from it, and tries to ensure that the administration moves in a direction that is truly moral."

This moral dimension is what sets Pagbabago apart from similar networks, and gives Perlas' description a distinctly "Newtopian" ring.

"It is an independent body trying to build a new Philippines based on new values and a new kind of work ethic," says Perlas. The glue binding the individuals together consists of core values shared in common: transparency, integrity/honesty, accountability, justice, equity, empowerment/people's participation, sustainability. It is a value system that places human development above the mere accumulation of wealth and the ecosystem at par with the economy, that recognizes a spiritual dimension to life, beyond materialism.

"Once you get the values right, everything else follows," adds political analyst Alex Magno. "We found ourselves as a network that didn't have a program of government, that's not a political group, but which agreed on core values."

The "Juetengate" crisis was a crisis of institutions, he explains, during which the traditional bodies such as the political parties and the organs of the state were gripped by a moral paralysis. The only sphere in which valid changes could be made was the sphere of values.

"That's where civil society regrouped," says Magno. "In the rediscovery of our values." Edsa II was also an example of citizens reclaiming politics from the politicians. "Before, we left politics to the professional politicians – or the professional revolutionaries, which is one and the same thing," Magno says. "What was remarkable about Edsa II was the extent to which the political has dissolved into the cultural debate, the values debate, the strengthening of institutions."

Perlas sees Pagbabago as part of the emergence of global civil society as a third force holding the other two major forces in the world – business and government – in balance. The descriptive "forum of ideas" implies a lot of people sitting around chewing the cud, and then going home to an early supper and bed. But the reality is far more dynamic.

"In diversity there is creativity," says Bookmark's Tan. "Everybody is active in their own fields, but when we get together, it's a 'think' group. Generally, what we do is get together, analyze what's going on and share information. The group generates ideas for activities and farms them out to networks like Kumpil, Bayan or Sanlakas, and whoever feels that the idea will work for them implements it."

"This is a self-propelling group," says Dan Songco, national coordinator of the Caucus of Development NGO Networks. "It's not as big in terms of numbers as the other groups, but the network has a large reach. And there are ideas, there are resources, and there are people with their respective constituencies that can implement the ideas. And it chooses interventions that are more strategic and focused, and within its ability to make an impact."

Some ideas are spur-of-the-moment flashes of inspiration that just catch fire, such as the human chain from Ayala to Edsa, which Perlas only thought of the night before.

"We were worried that people might get tired of just being in Edsa, and we thought there must be something else that would be dramatic enough to engage them," recalls APO's Paredes. "It was a matter of finding creative ways to express the anti-Erap sentiment."

The speed with which the idea of a human chain running from Ayala to the Edsa Shrine turned into a reality 18 hours later also underscores the new environment in which events unfold, one in which media is no longer just a player, but the playing field itself.

"In Edsa II, the media was essential to the speed with which consensus was formed," says Magno. "It was the frontlines, actually. The street action was just the photo opportunity."

The media sphere is also no longer restricted to the traditional print and broadcast organizations, which are still controlled by partisan business interests. As Jim Paredes observes, with cellular technology and the Web, everyone is a broadcaster.

"The remarkable thing about Tuesday night was the fact that the message to gather at Edsa didn't go over the radio, it was carried by text," says Magno. "We don't have a category to explain this phenomenon: unorganized individuals delivering an organized response. Traditional political organizations were a means to get action through a hierarchy. But now you can get action on the basis of consensus."

For these reasons, most of Pagbabago's work during the crisis was media work, from posters to ad campaigns to the human chain itself.

Now comes the hard part. After successfully unseating the Estrada regime, civil society groups are now faced with the challenge of keeping their momentum. Most of the members of Pagbabago agree that the way to do this is to ensure that politics is not just left to the professional politicians.

"We trusted the politicians too much before," says Paredes. "This time civil society doesn't want to surrender its power to government. We want to use it to get government to do the right thing."

Paredes believes that there are positive signs that this is already taking place. Consultations with civil society have influenced the composition of the People Power Coalition slate, and the GMA cabinet to some extent.

"With the right president, it can get a big boost toward institutionalization," he says. But there can be no leaving things to chance. "Change is a daily thing that involves every aspect of our daily lives."

Among other things, he says, the group wants individuals and families to commit to positive changes in their values. One concrete expression of this impulse is Artista Para Sa Pagbabago, a group of performers who want to use their high profile to educate the public about the electoral process. Among its members are Kuh Ledesma, Leah Navarro, Joey Reyes, Apa Ongpin, Ricky Lee and Marvin Agustin.

According to Bukidnon Rep. Neric Acosta, Pagbabago's only member (so far) in Congress, "I believe Pagababago's role is that of watchdog-cum-catalyst/agent for reformist ideals. We want to utilize the explosion of information and ideas to goad the present government into more proactive measures for reform. The wireless texting/e-mail/mass media tools are potent and should be tapped to the fullest. All this should help shift paradigms of power itself — from an understanding of power framed in terms of domination over material, natural and human resources to those that define power in terms of creative mobilization of talent and energies, a responsibility to nurture good sense and decency in public affairs, a protective care for the natural environment, and inspiration in leadership. We want to be a voice, a megaphone of the Pinoy condition — as expressed by this expanding network of individuals and groups from all walks of society whose only overriding aspiration is to see and embrace a Philippines we truly deserve and can all be proud of."

But at the heart of Pagbabago's experiment in "civilizing" society, says Magno, is still the concept of the sovereign citizen.

"Each individual makes his own decision, decisions converge in networks, and the networks interconnect." Voila!

This is the answer to the question that the man in Polk Street is probably still asking himself.

Human chain: (From left) Economist Alan Ortiz, Ateneo's Fr. Tito Caluag, political analyst Alex Magno, lawyer Francis Pangilinan, Jim Paredes, performer Kuh Ledesma, environmentalist Nicky Perlas, author Marian Pastor Roces, director Joey Reyes, publisher Lory Tan and NGO coordinator Dan Songco

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Theater Tales
by Alvin I. Dacanay

Passion and camaraderie – and free meriendas! – are the secrets behind the staying power of the Peta Writer's Bloc, one of the most enduring and prolific playwrights' groups in the local theater scene

The Play's the Thing

ON THE SURFACE, THEY SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON. WHAT DOES A LAWYER HAVE IN COMMON WITH A POET? A HISTORIAN WITH A TV PRODUCER? BUT FROM AUGUST TO MARCH, THEY WOULD GATHER EVERY OTHER SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT A MODEST, ONE-STORY HOUSE-TURNED-OFFICE IN CUBAO. FOR THREE HOURS, THEY WOULD TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY DO HAVE IN COMMON: A LOVE FOR THE ART AND CRAFT OF PLAYWRITING.

Dennis Sabangan

Chips off the old bloc. Top row, left to right: Chris Martinez, Vic Torres, Elmer Gatchalian, Ian del Carmen, Alvin Dacanay, Rody Vera, Emman dela Cruz and Liza Magtoto. Bottom row, left to right: Debbie Tan, Lallie Bucoy, Jhune Caiña, Ned Trespeces and Nicolas Pichay

For over 10 years now, the Peta Writers' Bloc has nurtured a number of new, talented playwrights and helped established playwrights further sharpen their skills. It boasts some of the most well-known names in Philippine drama: Rene Villanueva, Rody Vera, Nicolas Pichay, Jun Lana, Vic Torres, Elmer Gatchalian and Liza Magtoto. Some of the plays that underwent a Bloc reading eventually received awards. Nicolas' "Almanac for a Revolution," which Peta staged in November 1999 as *"Ang Dalawang Buhay ni Plaridel"* (The Two Lives of Plaridel) was one. Rody's "Luna, An Aswang Romance," which Gilda Cordero-Fernando staged to great acclaim early last year, was another.

A typical Peta Writers' Bloc meeting goes on like this: Someone distributes copies of his or her play to the rest of the group for an oral reading. Comments follow — sometimes bitchy, a few times brutal, but most of the time helpful. All the writer can do at this point is keep quiet, listen, and take note of whatever comment he or she finds useful. Afterwards, the writer finally speaks and, if he or she chooses to, defends (or explains) the play or asks for suggestions on how to improve it. Snacks and refreshments are served. Witty remarks, hilarious one-liners and lessons on writing and theater scatter throughout the meeting like spices being added to a dish. It's like a workshop, except that it's free.

The Peta Writers' Bloc may have been formed by Charley de la Paz, who penned the Palanca-winning musicale "1896," more than a decade ago, but according to Rody, the group's coordinator/moderator, the Playwright's Development Program, which the group falls under, goes back as far as 1967. "The PDP was established when Peta was founded by Cecile Guidote," he relates. Writers like Alberto Florentino, Nestor Torre, Jesus Peralta and Virginia Moreno were the first to participate in the program. "They staged readings then at the Ateneo in Padre Faura and they also have an evening program at Paco Park or at Fort Santiago for laboratory renderings of new plays."

When Guidote left the country after Martial Law was declared, writers such as Frank Rivera, Al Santos and the late Orlando Nadres took over

the PDP. However, it gradually slid into inactivity after 1977. When Charley revived the program sometime in 1990, he practically had to start from scratch. After forming the Peta Writers' Bloc, he assumed the role of coordinator/moderator, a role he faithfully performed until he died unexpectedly in 1995. Rody had just stepped down as Peta's artistic director when he took over the PDP, as well as the Writers' Bloc.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't have any major difficulties when I took over because Charley laid down the foundations needed for the PDP," Rody admits. "Charley was really the one who set it all up. When I took over, all I had to do was provide the time, venue and *merienda* because the readings of the plays never stopped. It was as if when Charley died, people began writing scripts. Also, it was not hard to convene the group because Charley's death left the members with a sense of commitment. It was as though everyone wanted to do their bit for Charley."

For Jun Lana, the award-winning screenwriter of "Jose Rizal" and *"Muro-Ami,"* his years with the Peta Writers' Bloc has had a profound impact on his writing. "Take away all the layers of my writing experience and what remains at the core is my formative years with the Writers' Bloc and my mentor Rene Villanueva," he says. He adds that, alongside Rene, "the Bloc served as my academy, where writing and theater were pursued with so much passion one would think we were trying to earn a doctorate degree. I truly believe that nowadays it is only the Writers' Bloc that offers a genuine Aristotelian training in writing." Jun admits that it is a rigid training that requires a lot of patience and perseverance, but adds that it pays off in the end. "It pays off not just in terms of the experience and knowledge one cultivates from the sessions, but more importantly, the voice he/she develops as a writer."

A scene from Peta's2000 production "Tumawag kay Libby Manooog," a statement against violence against women

For Liza Magtoto, the Peta Writers' Bloc not only helped her as a writer, but more significantly, also helped destroy many barriers that came with being a woman writer. "It is very frightening to write, but it is even more frightening to write as a woman because you're trying to overcome a lot of the fears that were built up through the years," she explains. "They include the things you were not to say as a woman, the years of being used to silence instead of speaking up." She credits the group for nurturing a friendly and safe environment for women whose contexts make them feel insecure about their writing. She also gives the group credit for encouraging women writers by being open to the fresh ideas and non-linear structures coming from their works. "The Writers' Bloc has been very receptive to plays which deviate from or rebel against existing plot structures," she goes on, "and most women writers I know have non-linear ways of storytelling, much like they way they live."

Although known as a poet, Vim Nadera has been attending Writers' Bloc sessions for several years. Like Jun and Liza, Vim attests to the helpfulness of the lessons he learned from the group. "Since I started with writing verse, the Writers' Bloc has taught me to consider my audience," he says. He used to be too private, until he gradually learned how to be "public," thanks to the Bloc's influence. "I am now conscious of how my readers, or viewers, would understand what I am trying to say. As a teacher, I benefit from such a lesson, too."

The Peta Writers' Bloc has accomplished much under Rody's leadership. One achievement that the group can feel truly proud of was organizing and hosting the first National Playwrights' Conference in February 1997 in Manila. Many playwrights from all over the country attended the event, among them Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, Anton Juan, Elsa Martinez-Coscolluela, Paul Dumol, Steve Fernandez and Edward Perez. The conference tackled issues that ranged from intellectual property rights and audience development to royalties and the availability of new plays. More importantly, it raised the desire for an establishment of a Playwrights' Guild. Up to now, that desire has yet to be fulfilled.

True to its aim of "developing new playwrights who will define the vision and perspectives of Philippine Drama," the Peta Writers' Bloc has showcased the works of new playwrights through its culminating activity, Peta's annual Dulaang Laboratoryo, which began four years ago. So far, the activity has introduced four new playwrights: Jon Ariño with *"Ibubulong Ko sa Langit"*; Alvin Dacanay with "Eyeball"; Me-Anne Llanza with *"Di Sente"* (Not Sane); and May Lorica with "*Buhay* Lotto" (Lottery Life). This year's Dulaang Laboratoryo, titled "Komedi Club," adds four more to the list: Lallie Bucoy, with *"Isang Libong Tula Para sa Dibdib ni Dulce"* (A Thousand Poems for Dulce's Bosom); Sheila Crisostomo with "Emergency"; Ian del Carmen with *"Pera o Wala"* (Money or Nothing) and "TXTM8:-)"; and Ned Trespeces with "*Trabaho* Solilioquies" (Work Soliloquies).

Last year, to encourage more people to write plays, Rene established the Charley de la Paz Memorial Award for Playwriting. To qualify, the playwright must not have won any national literary award, and his or her play must have been read and critiqued by the Writers' Bloc. Grace Perdiguerra was the award's first recipient, winning P5,000 for her full-length play *"Bestida"* (Dress). This year, the cash prize was increased to P10,000.

When asked about the group's future plans, Rody answers that he plans to continue with the Dulaang Laboratoryo and the Charley de la Paz Memorial Award, as well as venturing into publishing. Specifically, he plans to publish an anthology of the 10-minute plays that Peta staged in this and last year's laboratory productions and a playwriting manual.

Nicolas says it best when asked what has made the Peta Writers' Bloc last as long as it did: "One, the passion of the members to write for theater as a performance art. Two, the camaraderie of the members where everyone is welcome to learn, make mistakes and not take themselves seriously. Three, the sense of informal and unspoken mentorship among the new and veteran playwrights. And four, the free *ensaymada* and Coke!"

"THE Komedi Club," which features 15 short plays by new and established playwrights, tackles a wide range of issues and themes, from politics and relationships to death and women's concerns, through comedy. Produced in cooperation with the National Commision on Culture and the Arts and the Intramuros Administration, "The Komedi Club" will have its final run this weekend, March 8, 9 and 10 (Thursday to Saturday), at 6 in the evening. For more information, please contact the Peta office at 410-0822 or e-mail at peta@drama.com.ph

THE AUTHOR, Alvin I. Dacanay, is currently taking his M.A. in Creative Writing at UP Diliman. A published fictionist, he has been attending Peta Writers' Bloc meetings for seven years. His comic 10-minute play, "Eyeball," was one of the six plays PETA staged in the 2000 Dulaang Laboratoryo.

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36-39	121.90	1,380.00	243.80	2,760.00	487.60	5,520.00	731.40	8,280.00	975.20	11,040.00	1,219.00	13,800.00
40-43	151.90	1,720.00	303.80	3,440.00	607.60	6,880.00	911.40	10,320.00	1,215.20	13,760.00	1,519.00	17,200.00
44-47	193.90	2,196.00	387.80	4,392.00	775.60	8,784.00	1,163.40	13,176.00	1,551.20	17,568.00	1,939.00	21,960.00
48-50	231.90	2,624.00	463.80	5,248.00	927.60	10,496.00	1,391.40	15,744.00	1,855.20	20,992.00	2,319.00	26,240.00
51-53	277.90	3,144.00	555.80	6,288.00	1,111.60	12,576.00	1,667.40	18,864.00	2,223.20	25,152.00	2,779.00	31,440.00
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End Page

by Jonathan Best

Gardens in the City

Manila's new Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion are welcome pockets of nature in the metropolis

A view of the pools in Mehan Gardens in 1909

"He who plants a garden plants happiness." - *Chinese proverb*

THE RECENT RENOVATION AND RE-OPENING OF MANILA'S ORCHIDARIUM IN RIZAL PARK IS A WELCOME EVENT. IT HAS BEEN ENTIRELY REDESIGNED, WITH NEW DISPLAYS OF ORCHIDS AND TROPICAL PLANTS, A BUTTERFLY PAVILION, CASCADING WATERFALLS, ORNAMENTAL FISHPONDS AND AN ATTRACTIVE NEW RESTAURANT WITH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR DINING. THE ONE-HECTARE GARDEN, NEXT TO THE MUSEUM OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE AT THE EAST END OF THE PARK, IS LEASED FROM THE NATIONAL PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM. IT IS A PROJECT OF THE CLEAN AND GREEN FOUNDATION, WHICH FORMER FIRST LADY AMELITA M. RAMOS CONTINUES TO LEAD. FOR MANY YEARS BOTANICAL GARDENS HAVE BEEN THE PRIDE OF TROPICAL CITIES ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND AROUND THE WORLD. HOPEFULLY THIS NEW GARDEN WILL REKINDLE AN INTEREST IN BOTANICAL GARDENS HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

In 1858, under the Spanish colonial regime, Governor Norzagaray created a five-hectare garden across from the walls of Intramuros in the old Parian district between Bagumbayan Drive and Calle Arroceros. This garden stretched from the present site of the Metropolitan Theater to Manila's current City Hall. The land was presented to the city and laid out by the famous Spanish botanist Sebastian Vidal y Solar, whose statue stood at the center of the park. During the American colonial regime the botanical gardens were renovated and improved upon by John Mehan, an American Army officer who took a keen interest in developing a system of parks for Manila. The gardens were subsequently named after him.

At their height before World War II, Mehan Gardens were renowned for their beautiful walkways, pools, and wide variety of trees, both indigenous and imported. The gardens even boasted an aviary and zoo with a large monkey house. The gardens were popular with the public, and on Monday evenings the Constabulary Band would move from its bandstand at the Luneta and perform under the trees in the gardens. Although part of these gardens remain today, they have been encroached upon by roadways and municipal buildings and are threatened by urban developers.

The new Orchidarium is only a couple of blocks from the original Mehan Gardens. However, you would be taking your life in your hands if you tried to walk from one site to the other today, due to the lack of sidewalks and traffic controls. It is best approached on foot from Rizal Park. If you come by car you can find ample parking next to the National Museum's Museum of the Filipino People. This new museum of anthropology and archeology is housed in the former Finance Building on Agrifina Circle and is another excellent legacy of urban planning during the Ramos administration.

Botanical gardens and orchidariums have a reputation for being somewhat stodgy and academic, the natural abode of scholars with thick glasses and little old ladies with bird-watching paraphernalia. This is not the case with the new Orchidarium in Rizal Park. Its executive director, Imelda Sarmiento of the Clean and Green Foundation, has made a concerted effort to make the gardens entertaining while they continue to be educational. There is an excellent brochure and map, well-informed guides and attractive signage with the botanical names of the various displays for students and those interested in botany. However, above and beyond their educational value the gardens have been designed to be aesthetically beautiful and relaxing for pressured city dwellers, young and old alike.

The walkways start with trellises of hoyas, yellow bells, red powder puffs, wooly morning glories and a jade vine which is thriving but not yet in bloom. They continue to wind on past displays of indigenous orchids mounted on trees and rocks amid staghorn and bird's-nest ferns and a large variety of creepers and vines, philodendrons, monsteras and other aroids. There is an island of palms growing in sand and a large patch of beautiful medinilla or *kapa-kapa* which are endemic to the Philippines. Crossing a bridge beside a double waterfall, one sees water plants and ferns hanging from rock walls surrounding a pool stocked with live fish.

Moving on past the bromeliads and mussaendas, which are named after Filipino First Ladies – the white being Doña Aurora (Quezon), the red Doña Trining (Roxas) – one reaches the butterfly pavilion. Upon entering the screened enclosure you are surrounded by exotic butterflies fluttering about and alighting to feed on flowers and at artificial feeding stations. As I tried to take photos of the stationary ones, others would land in my hair, on my arms and even on my camera. They seemed incredibly tame. The walkways continue after the butterfly pavilion past displays of orchids, vandas and dendrobiums, and numerous other flowering plants and ferns, many still waiting for their proper name plates.

At the center of the garden is an attractive restaurant appropriately named "Lush Life," built on a terrace beside reflecting pools and overhanging trees. The day I was there, they were busily preparing for a wedding reception, which is one way the Orchidarium, under the auspices of the Clean and Green Foundation, raises funds to help support itself. Of the many worthwhile environmental projects the Foundation has sponsored, the new Orchidarium is certainly one of the most enjoyable for the public. Anyone who loves tropical plants and flowers or just wants a bit of peace and quiet amid nature's beauty should definitely stop by the Orchidarium for a leisurely stroll down its garden paths.

Comments welcome: endpage2000@hotmail.com

This Week

Art

Hope: The Botanical Session of Dominique James, exhibit of black-and-white photographs by Dominique James at The Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala, Makati City. From March 6 to 24. For details, e-mail cecille@fillib.org.ph or call 892-1801.

Longitude, a solo exhibit of oil paintings by Christine Amador until

"Richter Scale" by Christine Amador on exhibit at the Lopez Memorial Museum Shop.

March 14 at the Lopez Memorial Museum Shop, G/F The Power Plant Mall, 25 Lopez Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For details, call 898-0981.

Jurgen Freund's photo exhibit and audiovisual show on Feb. 28 til March 31 at Tipunan, Filipino Bookstore, F. de la Rosa corner Katipunan Road, across Gate 3 of the Ateneo de Manila University. For details, call 899-4246/48-49.

Libog opens the "Who Owns Women's Bodies" (or WOWB) exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Bulwagang Juan Luna (Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City). The show presents new works that deal with sexual and reproductive rights by artists including Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Julie Lluch, Jose Tence Ruiz, Tita Lim, among others. Till March 31.

***Pag-ibig* Findings,** featuring the works of UP Fine Arts students, including Chico Beltran, Carmelo Caluag, Dada Docot and others, at Big Sky Mind (66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City). Till March 18. For details, call 414-7451.

Edsa Dos, exhibit by photojournalists Ray Panaligan, Boy Esclanda, Ricky Canta (Kabayan), Jojo Pasana (Manila Times), Tony Pionilla (Sun Star), Sid Balatan (Kyodo News), Sonny Espiritu (Manila Standard), Joseph Vidal (Senate photographer), Lawrence Chin (Alpha Camera Club), and Ray Sabio at Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. Until March 9. For details, call 928-1158 or 928-1160.

Onstage

Pinoy Agonistes. Tanghalang Pilipino revives People Power at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino or CCP Little Theater, today, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Written by Nick Joaquin, it stars Apa Ongpin, Ronnie Lazaro, Richard Joson and Tessie Tomas. Directed by Nonon Padilla. For details, call 436-8486/4181.

Tirik, a play directed by Soxy Topacio, featuring Leonardo Litton and Allyson VII Gonzales, onstage March 6 and 13 at Mr. Melody Bar and Restaurant (75 Roces Ave. corner Scout Santiago , Quezon City). For details, call 415-0373 or 374-1361.

Dramatis Personae and Instituto Cervantes, the Embassy of Spain and the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional present Pedro Calderon dela Barca's Life is a Dream *(La Vida es Sueno)*, March 4, 10 and 11, at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Pius XII Theatre, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue, Paco, Manila. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

Atbpa

Filipinas Heritage Library presents the following activities: Writing for Magazines. Find out what it takes to write for leading Filipino magazines with Myrza Sison and Eric Ramos on March 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Reading Room. Admission fee is P75 only. On March 16, 6:30 p.m., the Library and the UP Creative Writing Center host the third annual open-mike poetry reading contest at the FHL Courtyard. Established writers will judge the piece to be read (bring five extra copies) and in case you don't win his/her heart, you just might win our prize. Admission fee is P100 for readers, P50 for hecklers. Get one free beer. For details, email mabi@fillib.org.ph

Ballet Philippines presents its 8th Neo Filipino Series, *Samasama:* **Video and Dance."** An artistic collaboration among filmmakers, videographers and choreographers. March 9-10, 9 p.m., at the Republic of Malate, 1769 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila.

Intensive College Admissions Test Review. A review program with lecturers, test and study tips, diagnostic tests and drills and other exercises in preparation for the various college admission tests. Registration ongoing. For details, call 752-1096.

Send your Edsa photos for book on Edsa 2. ABS-CBN Publishing calls out to all photojournalists and amateur photographers who took photos of the events on Edsa 2. Color or black and white, print or transparencies, starting from the mass actions in October 2000 to January 2001's Edsa 2, Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearings, the impeachment at the House of the Representatives and the trial. Also photos outside of Metro Manila. Send your photos to Noli Yamsuan, photo editor, Edsa Shrine, Edsa corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City. All entries must have a stamped return envelope.

The Lopez Memorial Museum's Luncheon Series continues with the "First Filipino *Pensionados*" on March 21. Colonial art expert and historian Dr. Luciano Santiago talks about the life and times of the first Filipino *pensionado* artists. Each luncheon lecture is priced at P1,250 per person at the Benpres Building's Executive Dining Lounge (5/F, Exchange Road, Pasig City). For details, call 631-2417 or 449-2355.

Narrative Non-fiction Writing Workshop at the Ayala Museum. Till Mar. 10. For details, call 812-1191 to 97, local 130.

The Japan Foundation in cooperation with the Japanese Studies programs of Ateneo de Manila University and De la Salle University will sponsor the 5th International Conference on Japanese Studies on March 8 and 9 at the SDC Conference Hall, Ateneo de Manila university, Loyola Heights, QC. This year's theme is "Challenges & Opportunities of Japanese Studies in the New Millennium." Admission is free but registration/reservation is required. For details, call the Ateneo Japanese Studies program at 426-6001 local 5248 or the De La Salle Faculty Association Office at 523-5247.

X-manila

Déjà vu, exhibit by Vivien Virata, at the Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll (Campo Sioco, Baguio City). Till March 21. For details, call 442-4602/4926.

Promised Land, Broken Land, an exhibit of large and medium scale oil and acrylic paintings by Lea Padilla at Gallery 5, 5th Level, JSCitimall, Davao City. From March 5-28.

Cotabato City National Arts Month. Till Feb. 28, Cotabato City features Maguindanao *pandala* (decorative flag) painting and outdoor exhibit, *layang-layang* (kite) festival, *tula-dulaan* in English and Filipino and art fair. For details, call (064) 421-2221.

Nature Awareness and Conservation Club presents Nature Adventure Activities this season: March 10-11, Puerto Gallera Beachieneering Galore; April 7-9, Coron and Caluit Adventure, April 9-15 Mt. Kanlaon Outreach Program; April 16-22 Bali Escapades. Discover the mystery of the East, relax on the sand watching the magnificent sunset, enjoy the colorful coral gardens; April 27-May 1, Bontoc-Sagada-Banawe; May 12, Calawis Educational Outreach Program.Educational assistance and supplies will be appreciated; For details, call 806-1720, 6 p.m. onward.

Linangan ng Kasaysayang Bayan, Iskuwela sa Tag-init 2001 presents an intensive five-day course on Philippine history titled *"Kasaysayan ng Bayan sa Larangang Pambansa at Lokal,"* April 16-22 at the NFA Staff House and Training Center, Loakan Rd., Baguio City. For details, write Prof. Ferdinand C. Llanes at PO Box 256, UP Diliman, QC or call 926-1088, or Dr. Rowena R. Boquiren at (074) 442-2427.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

ENVIE

The Beauty Pill

When you were a child,
your body made perfect skin

As you age,

U.V. damage, hormones, pollutants,
poor diet and stress conspire to rob
you of that flawless appearance

Now

You can reverse those damaging
effects by taking ENVIE
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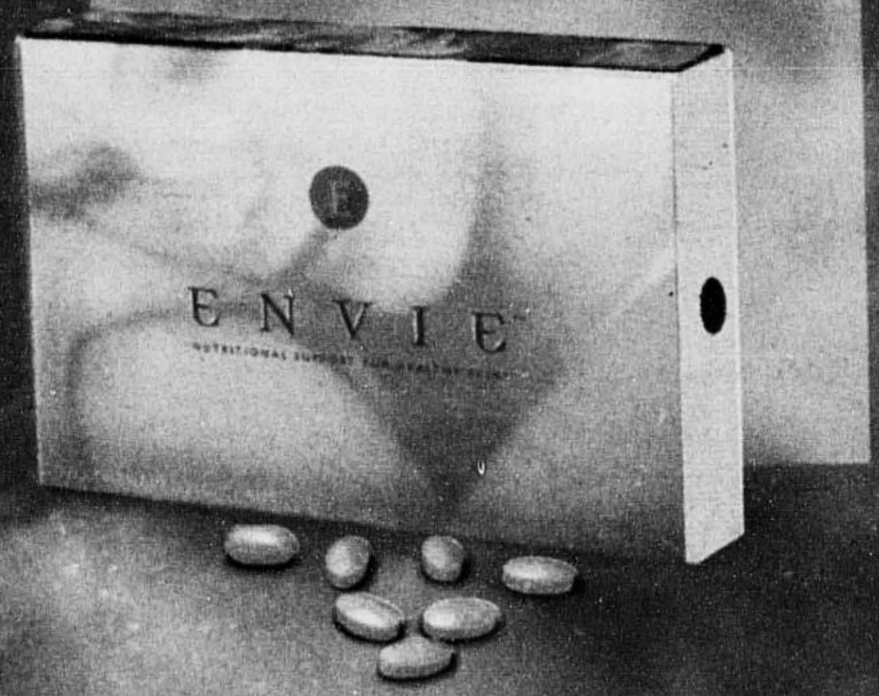
and Healthy Collagen Development
for your skin



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